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Car sales and credit on the rise Shephard sees glimmer of hope in jobless trend

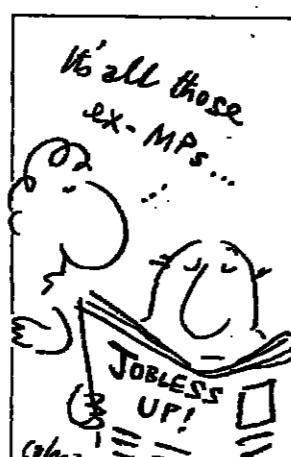
By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people out of work increased by 7,400 in March, the smallest monthly rise for almost two years.

Gillian Shephard, the new employment secretary, spoke of "glimmers of hope" but, while cautioning against attaching too much to one month's figures, she said that the apparent fall in the rate of job losses was accompanied by other encouraging signs. "The number of people becoming unemployed has eased over recent months, and more people are leaving unemployment and getting back to work," she said.

Britain's biggest credit information group, Infolink, yesterday reported a rise in credit enquiries and used-car sales in the immediate aftermath of the election. Applications for retail, motor and home loans were up 5.5 per cent, supporting predictions from employers that sales in the high street should resume their growth this month after a retraction in March attributed to election jitters.

Sales of new cars jumped by 20 per cent in the five days



to reach 2,652,400, 9.4 per cent of the workforce. The monthly total before seasonal adjustment was down for the first time since October by 3,010 to 2,707,477.

Mrs Shephard took the opportunity to signal a shift in policy at the employment department: "I will be looking at the range of measures on offer to ensure that as we come out of the recession they offer people effective help in getting back to work."

Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, said the trend was still firmly upwards. "Even on the government's figures there are still almost 2.7 million unemployed with the numbers of long-term unemployed rising sharply," he said.

City commentators, who had been expecting an underlying increase of around 35,000, were surprised at the apparent flattening in the rate of job losses. John Shephard, chief UK economist with merchant bank SG Warburg, said the figures were "suspiciously good", adding: "We are clearly past the worst of the unemployment increases but we are likely to see some erratic figures for a time."

The number out of work actually fell, after seasonal adjustment, in the North West (to 10.3 per cent), the North (11), Wales (9.4) and Scotland (9.2), but continued to rise strongly in the South East (to 8.8 per cent) and East Anglia (7.2), which have seen some of the biggest rises during the recession. Unemployment in these two areas is still below the national average.

Northern Ireland, with 14.3 per cent out of work, remains a blackspot, while in greater London, where 407,000 are now without jobs, the 10.1 per cent unemployment is now the fourth worst in Britain after Northern Ireland, the North West and the West Midlands.

Mrs Shephard said the economy was now keeping up with efficiency gains by main international competitors.

"This and growing business confidence should mean better news for jobs and those out of work," she said. Nonetheless, Britain's unemployment rate, at 9.6 per cent, remains the third worst in Europe, after Ireland, at 17 per cent, and Spain, at 16.5. The total unemployed rose for the 23rd consecutive month.

Remand in Semtex case

Amid a high-security police operation, James Canning, 36, and Ethel Lamb, 60, were remanded in custody at an east London court charged with conspiring to cause explosions in central London and possessing Semtex explosive and six assault rifles. Page 3

Into the fray

Ken Livingstone entered Labour's leadership contest. He quickly suggested John Smith as his deputy, but attacked his tax plans as instrumental in losing Labour the election. Page 2

Boy assaulted

A four-year-old boy was sexually assaulted and strangled in his bed in a Plymouth lodging house run by his parents. Page 3

Tourist killed

Parents of a 27-year-old British woman killed in the French Quarter of New Orleans flew there as police hunted for the mugger who shot her. Page 5

Boot test

Car boot sale enthusiasts could try to get their money back on faulty purchases under the Sale of Goods Act. Page 8

Leading article, page 13

Serb advance

As Serb troops took the key city of Visegrad, Britain condemned the violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina as an attempt by Serb extremists to destroy the EC-brokered constitution. Page 10

Trying better

The try's value in rugby union has been increased by one point to five in an attempt to produce a more open game. Pages 27, 28

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths	14
Crossword	16
Letters	13
Obituaries	15
Sport	24-28
LIFE & TRAVEL	
ANS	2,3
Concise Crossword	9
Health	6
Law Report	9
Motoring	7
TV & radio	10



16
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Abandoned van holds up holiday getaway

By JOHN VINCENT

MOTORISTS hoping for a quick escape from work at the start of the Easter holiday faced frustration and long delays last night when they were turned back at junction 1 of the M1 in north London. Police closed both carriageways for 90 minutes because of a suspect vehicle causing big hold-ups. Explosives experts faced long delays in reaching the scene.

Rail passengers were equally exasperated. All trains passing through Mill Hill were halted, British Rail said. Services into St Pancras and the Thameslink were affected. A BR spokesman said: "We were asked to suspend all movements at 17.50 tonight while they investigate the van. Trains were crowded with people going off for the weekend." Rail services resumed after the van was cleared at 7.21pm.

The motorway was closed at the start of the rush hour after a patrol spotted a suspicious vehicle on the hard shoulder. Drivers eager to escape found the motorway closed in both directions from Mill Hill, north London, to Stevenwood Services.

Earlier, drivers heading north on the M1 had been treated to 31 miles of what the AA described as "heavy and slow" traffic, with the M25 as far as Newport Pagnell.

Twelve people, including six children, were taken to hospital after a coach collided

Continued on page 16, col 6

Instant sunshine, page 3

EVEN in the depth of recession, Americans might expect their leader to earn more money than his dog. But this year President Bush failed to do so, according to the annual tax statement from the White House. Millie, the White House springer spaniel reported a healthy income of \$900,000 (£512,000) — more than four times the salary of the leader of the free world.

The money came from Millie's memoirs, an under-the-table look at life in the Bush family which spent some 20 weeks near the top of the best-seller lists last year. Even more galling for the beleaguered president, the First Dog scored royalties well beyond the paltry \$2,700 brought in by *Looking Forward*, Mr Bush's own autobiography. "This is somewhat



Millie dictated memoirs

embarrassing, but the president is taking it very well," said Marvin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, putting a jocular gloss on the matter. Sensitive to the fact that

Millie's tell-all tale had put the Bushes into the £1 million-a-year category, the White House was quick to recall that most of the proceeds were given to a charity which promotes literacy. This was deemed a highly appropriate choice by struggling writers who did not take kindly to canine prose outlasting their efforts.

Many have objected to the fact that the *New York Times* placed *Millie's Book* in the non-fiction list. Some even suggested that both it and the memoirs of Ronald Reagan, which came out at the same time and sold fewer copies, should be relegated to the fantasy section.

In her writings, said to be "dictated" to Barbara Bush, Mildred Kerr Bush remains discreet on matters of state, preferring to focus on social life, such as her acquaintance with such dog-friendly figures as Margaret Thatcher, Gerald Ford and the

Jordanian royal family. She delivers some advice on power name dropping: "Remember... never say 'I know Henry Kissinger'. Rather, we say 'Henry Kissinger knows me.' Her syntax is, however, not always felicitous like her master's. "I chased a little red fox for one night. George saw him racing across the lawn with his long red tail straight out behind him," she writes. "He was so thin he ran through the fence."

Though dog-lovers and children were the main intended customers for *Millie's Book*, it has become essential reading for political operators and academics who subscribe to Kafka's view that "all knowledge, the totality of all questions and answers, is contained in the dog". In their view, Millie's sentiments are the carefully disguised sentiments of George Bush. And it was, of course, really written by Mrs Bush.

Afghan leader ousted as rebels close in

TODAY IN THE TIMES

EASTER HOPES



FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN KABUL

PRESIDENT Najibullah, Afghanistan's former communist leader, who clung to power as the mujahidin rebels closed in on Kabul, was yesterday overthrown and turned back when trying to flee the country.

Ghulam Yaqubi, the head of security, committed suicide as mujahidin rebels surrounded the capital, closing the book on an administration abandoned by Moscow and encircled by its Muslim fundamentalist enemies. Many of the former president's close associates now fear reprisals. A four-man council has taken over the running of the country.

Western governments fear a bloodbath. The rebels who have fought the communist-dominated government since 1978, came within 25 miles of Kabul. Many of the rebel groups, united only in their hatred of the communists and their former Soviet backers, have already begun to quarrel among themselves.

Dr Najibullah, a former secret police chief installed by the Kremlin six years ago, attempted to make a getaway with one of his brothers but was turned away from Kabul airport by troops. He was reported to have taken refuge in a United Nations office, although there were rumours that he had been arrested. His wife and three children fled to India several days ago.

Dr Najibullah had been ready to resign to make way for a transitional government and elections under the United Nations peace plan. The end of his rule came suddenly, however, as the guerrillas made a final push for Kabul. Abdul Wakil, the foreign minister, told a news conference that the president had been replaced by four vice-presidents of the ruling Watan (homeland) party.

Kabul radio attacked Dr Najibullah for resigning illegally and leaving a power vacuum. It appealed to the army and civil service to help set up a transitional council.

Mr Wakil last night accused Dr Najibullah of deception. He had been hated by the mujahidin and by his

Continued on page 16, col 7

End of the track, page 9

Allergic to pollen? Some of the cures on offer you'd be wise to avoid

LIFE & TIMES Page 5

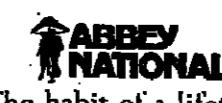
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Livingstone enters fray as champion of Southern Man

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE contest for the Labour leadership was given added zest yesterday when Ken Livingstone entered the fray presenting himself as the unlikely champion of the middle income southerner.

Mr Livingstone attacked John Smith's shadow budget tax policies which he said were instrumental in losing Labour the election. He launched his challenge to Mr Smith, the shadow chancellor, and Bryan Gould, shadow environment spokesman, at a Westminster press conference. He dismissed suggestions that his campaign could fall at the first hurdle by failing to attract nominations from 55 MPs which he needed.

"It was Labour's policy failure, above all on taxation, which failed to win voters," he said. "Simply changing the leader without changing policy is therefore not enough. Furthermore John Smith, as shadow chancellor, bears the chief responsibility for this failure of Labour's economic and taxation policy." He also attacked what he called Mr Smith's "unsuccessful attempts at cuddling up to the City over endless prawn cocktails".

Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, north London,

said that Mr Smith's tax plans had wrongly hit skilled workers in the South. "The policy of taxing middle income families cost us the election."

The former leader of the defunct Greater London Council said that the next general election could be lost in the next 12 weeks if the party merely decided to change personalities at the top. As the election neared the polls showed that the Conservatives had increased their lead on tax and the economy. In the event the swing to Labour was over 3.5 per cent in the South where the average family income was less than £245 a week but only 2 per cent where it was over £275, Mr Livingstone said.

Labour should have kept the 50 per cent tax rate but opted for the national insurance ceiling to have been lifted at £26,000 instead of £21,000, a move which would have affected only the top 5 per cent of taxpayers, he said.

Labour's spending pledges on child benefit and pensions would have been paid for by cutting the defence budget by £7 billion a year to bring military spending in line with the European average.

Presenting his own shadow budget, which he said had

been drawn up before Mr Smith's budget, Mr Livingstone called for an immediate 2 per cent cut in interest rates, a 15 per cent devaluation of the pound to a central rate of 2.50 DM and a cut in VAT to counter any inflationary pressure created by devaluation. "Failure to adopt radical economic policies meant that Labour had spending pledged which could only be financed by taxing those who were its potential supporters."

His criticism of Bryan Gould was less forthright. "Bryan Gould has now argued for devaluation, which I welcome, but voted for economic policy review documents which ruled it out."

Earlier Mr Livingstone cheekily suggested that he would be happy if Mr Smith ran as his deputy if he found himself squeezed out of the leadership contest. Since then he has made clear he is seeking a female deputy.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4 he warned of a hidden agenda in Mr Smith's camp of formal peace with the Liberal Democrats which might not emerge until the leadership election was over. Mr Livingstone challenged the other two contestants to television and radio debates to discuss the policies needed to win the



Taken as red: Mr Livingstone, who says he is in politics not to make gestures but to achieve power

power and to transform Britain and its economy." He also dismissed as hopeless naivety the view of some Labour MPs that last week's cut in the Conservative majority made a Labour victory inevitable at the next election.

Meanwhile the left-wing Tribune newspaper has accused the trade unions of

Deadly bee disease spreads to Somerset

A case of the deadly bee disease varroosis has been detected outside Devon, confirming fears of agriculture ministry scientists that the infection might spread (Nick Nuttall writes).

The ministry's service centre in Exeter said yesterday that the infection, by a mite that feeds on the blood of bees and deforms larvae developing in combs, had been verified near Ilminster, Somerset. Ministry scientists were meeting apriary owners on how to tackle the outbreak.

The agriculture ministry has at the same time announced a county-wide exclusion zone covering the movement of bees, hives, combs and bee-keeping equipment into and out of Devon after the number of confirmed cases rose to 36.

The first British case of varroosis was confirmed at Cockington earlier this month. More cases were later reported at Okehampton.

Until nearly two weeks ago, Britain was thought to have been free of the *Varroa jacobsoni* mite, which has devastated bee colonies on the Continent since 1980.

Baby's mother is charged

Maxine Davies, 29, of Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, was charged yesterday with attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to Tara Calman, her five-month-old daughter who has been missing since Monday.

Magistrates at Harrogate remanded her in custody for a week. Reporting restrictions were not lifted and there was no application for bail. Efforts by police to search for Tara in the river Nidd near Harrogate were hampered yesterday because the flow had become a torrent after three days of rain.

Death in ditch

A woman died and her husband suffered serious head injuries when they slipped and fell into a four-foot ditch yesterday. Kath Donelan, 59, of South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, tumbled into the freezing ditch, pulling her husband Danny, 61, after her, police believe. They were heading home from a social club. Mr Donelan was found seven hours later and taken to hospital.

Drugs enquiry

Almost 40 British soldiers serving in Germany are being investigated for alleged drugs offences after a raid on a warehouse party in Hanover attended by 130 soldiers as well as locals at which cannabis and Ecstasy were allegedly sold. Seventy were questioned by the army's special investigations branch. Since then, 37 have faced further investigation. No charges have yet been made.

Swimmer saved

Lee Price, 17, of Sopley, Dorset, was rescued four miles off Bournemouth trying to swim to shore against the tide yesterday after the small cruiser on which he and his brother John, 13, were sailing broke down. He was wearing a shell suit and a lifebelt and had hypothermia. He was flown to hospital for a check-up. A passing yacht had found his brother adrift and alerted coastguards.

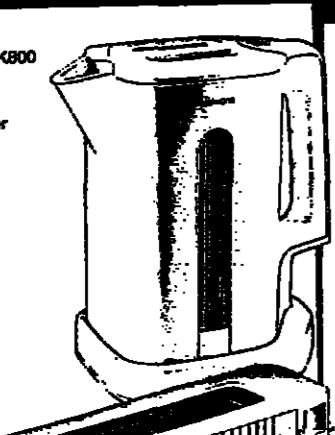
Free to go

Martin McGuinness, vice-president of Sinn Fein, was freed without charge by police in Dublin yesterday after being arrested on Wednesday night under Irish anti-terrorist legislation. Police gave no reason for holding or freeing Mr McGuinness, 42, from Londonderry. He could have been detained legally for up to 48 hours before being charged or released.

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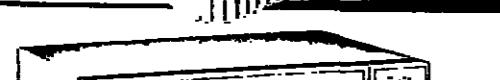
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Fear of hell cut crime, Patten says

YOUNG people embark on criminal activity because they no longer believe that they will pay for their sins in hell, John Patten, the education secretary, said yesterday. He said that the dwindling belief in redemption and damnation had a profound effect on personal morality and, in particular, on criminal behaviour.

Mr Patten, a practising Roman Catholic, said: "Fear of eternal damnation was a message reinforced through attendance at church every week. The loss of that fear has meant a critical motive has been lost to young people when they decide whether to try to be good citizens or to be criminals."

In an article in *The Spectator*, he links low recorded and reported crime in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with high levels of attendance at church, where people were told that bad behaviour was eternal damnation. Today, it is estimated that only 13 per cent of Britons attend church once a week.

Mr Patten wrote: "There does seem a clear relationship between the growth of 'Victorian values', church at-

tendance and low crime figures. The now-denied Victorian values of God-fearingness and hope of redemption developed towards the end of the 19th century. They rose with church attendance to their apogee in Edwardian times. Despite unemployment at its highest levels, crime fell to its lowest precisely in that near-mythical age when no one bothered to lock his door and the world was a village."

He writes: "Death is the gateway to eternal life has become Death the unthinkable. Health and safety at work regulations replace tough readings from the gospels, and even tougher ones from the Old Testament."

As a former Home Office minister with some knowledge of the risk of quoting crime statistics, Mr Patten concedes that there are many reasons why crime rates used to be lower. One, he suggests, is that there was less to steal.

Criminologists suggested that there could be others. Police might have recorded only those crimes that were cleared up. The rise of recorded crime could also be attributed to changes in police tactics and attitudes towards crimes such as rape or homosexuality, and the arrival of the motor car, which accounted for almost 30 per cent of the 5.3m offences recorded in England and Wales last year.

Home Office statistics show that, from 1876 to the mid-1920s, the annual recorded crime level in England and Wales was under 100,000, rising to 500,000 in 1950, passing 1.5 million in 1970 and more than five million in 1991. The population rose from less than 20 million in 1860 to more than 48 million in 1991.

Mr Patten said: "I am not suggesting that there is a link between the decline in crime and the increase in population."

OLYMPIA & York, the troubled Docklands property developer, will be expected to adhere to its commitment to co-finance the £1.3 billion Jubilee line extension, John MacGregor, the new transport secretary, said yesterday.

In one of her first full-length interviews since being promoted to the cabinet last weekend, Mrs Bottomley held out an olive branch to the medical profession. She said that she wanted every doctor and patient to benefit from the fund-holding changes.

Her move was welcomed by the British Medical Association, which has been pressing for the change for the past year.

Mrs Bottomley said: "Fund-holding will remain voluntary and we want to talk to the medical profession about the next step. The aim is that all GPs should feel they can exercise leverage on behalf of their patients in securing quality improvements. The precise mechanism as more doctors become fund-holders is a subject for further discussions."

The future of the line, which will link central and eastern London between Green Park and Stratford, via Canary Wharf, was unveiled in uncertainty earlier this month after Olympia & York failed to pay an initial £400 million towards the project.

Steven Norris, London's new transport minister, said efforts would be made to "integrate" all transport.

Mrs Bottomley promised gradually to reduce the maximum waiting time for sur-

gey to below 18 months and declared her support for performance-related pay in the NHS.

She said that, by the time of the next general election, she expected the "overwhelming majority" of hospitals and other units to have become self-governing trusts.

With this year's public spending round looking the toughest in a decade due to the £28 billion borrowing requirement, Mrs Bottomley indicated she would be better placed than other spending ministers. She said that John Major had pledged in the John Major manifesto to increase NHS resources in real terms year on year.

At present, some 2,800 GPs manage budgets of about £1 million a practice. A further 2,500 doctors are due to become fund-holders next year, but the BMA has been concerned about the remaining 24,000 outside the scheme.

The BMA, which initially opposed the scheme, has sought to ensure that those who are not fund-holders are not handicapped and that all doctors can win a good deal for patients.

Doctors welcome offer on budgets

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to give every family doctor the kind of bargaining strength held by those managing their own budgets were unveiled yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary.

With Liven Builder's slow-release feeding, you can expect more vigorous grass for months.



After months of trying, do you wonder why you still haven't been blessed with a beautiful lawn?

Well you can stop worrying that you or your partner are to blame. The problem is more likely to lie with the type of fertilizer you're using.

Most of the fertilizers you come across today release the essential nitrogen your grass needs far too quickly. So your lawn unfortunately gets more food than it can digest at any one time.

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And don't worry if your fingers aren't in the slightest bit green. Unlike other fertilizers, even if you accidentally apply a little too much Lawn Builder and therefore too much nitrogen, you won't end up with unsightly burnt patches on your lawn.

By now you should be able to find Scotts at most good garden centres around the country. (Please check at the bottom of this page for details of your nearest stockist.)

So to put an end to your infertility, be sure to ask for a bag of Lawn Builder. You'll then have a lawn that looks so wonderful, you will want to keep a picture of it in your wallet to show all your friends.



THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 17 1992

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Parents fly to US after murder of 'brilliant' daughter

BY DAVID YOUNG

THE parents of a 27-year-old British woman killed in the French Quarter of New Orleans flew to the American city yesterday as its police intensified the hunt for the mugger who shot her.

Police have warned tourists in New Orleans that they can "advise them but not protect them". They said a mugger "high" on drugs killed Julie Stott. She had been with her friend Peter Ellis when a thief drove up and demanded money. He forced the couple to lie on the ground before opening fire, hitting Miss Stott but missing Mr Ellis by inches.

Miss Stott was described yesterday as a textile designer with a brilliant future. She had met up in Los Angeles with Mr Ellis, 27, who had been working in New Zealand for 18 months, before travelling to New Orleans for the jazz festival.

They were leaving a restaurant in a normally quiet quarter of the town on Wednesday when the gunman

drove up and demanded money and valuables. Neither resisted but the man opened fire before driving off empty-handed. Mr Ellis was uninjured.

At Sundour Fabrics, the textile firm in Bolton, Greater Manchester, where Miss Stott was development and design manager, the chief executive Peter Robinson said: "We can't believe it. She was a super girl. I took her on six years ago and she finished up managing our design workshop. She was brilliant at the job and had a great future."

"They had not been there very long and had just come out of a restaurant. Julie wouldn't have resisted at all. She was used to travelling and used to go abroad for us with exhibitions."

Miss Stott recently bought a flat in Eccles, Greater Manchester. She joined the Bolton firm after leaving the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology with a degree in

textiles and design. Her parents, Ray and Margaret Stott, from Middleton, Greater Manchester, flew to New Orleans yesterday.

Jim Stewart, a murder squad detective in the city, said: "We can only warn people about the dangers on the street, but we cannot protect them. Tourists get robbed in London too, but our guys have guns."

"This girl and her friend had come here because they loved jazz. They just wanted to see where the greats had played."

Mr Stewart said that the couple had co-operated fully with their attacker, who appeared to witnesses to be high on drugs. He had demanded their cash and valuables when suddenly his attitude changed and he started to fire a handgun before jumping back into a car and driving away.

A witness, Cathan McCandlish, said: "Nowhere is safe for a young woman to walk around."



Victim: Julie Stott, murdered in New Orleans

Shooting of farmer accidental

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A WEALTHY farmer who was shot dead in a copse was accidentally killed by a device he made for shooting foxes, police said.

Peter Jowett, 43, was probably the victim of a gust of wind which completed an electrical circuit and triggered a .357 magnum bullet from the gun-mounted gadget he built to protect lambs on his land at Winterslow, Wiltshire.

A coroner's inquest will be held at Salisbury on May 29. Det Chief Insp David Sinclair, who is leading the investigation, said: "We are confident this was a tragic accident with the gun activating while Mr Jowett was close by. We can speculate it was for the purpose of shooting animals but we don't actually know the reason. We must always keep an open mind but at this stage we are not treating it as a murder enquiry."

Although police have not ruled out the possibility that someone else pulled the trigger, they are convinced there is no connection between Mr Jowett's death and an incident last November when he was stabbed by an intruder at his home. Police are appealing to engineering companies from which Mr Jowett may have sought help in making the device.

For sale: a fairway to heaven

BY JOHN YOUNG

ANY golfer who dreams of playing undisturbed and unhampered by others on the course might like to consider buying Wootton Hall, in north Lincolnshire, which is being offered for sale by its owner, John Halmshaw.

Although golf courses in the grounds of country houses are increasingly common, they have nearly all been developed as commercial ventures to support the upkeep of the estate. A course built for its owner's exclusive delectation or frustration is a rarity.

Mr Halmshaw bought the eighteenth century house from the Earl of Yarborough 25 years ago. He designed and built the nine-hole par-three course in the grounds in 1980, complete with its own "club house" and bar.

"Some people have swimming pools, some have tennis courts. I'd rather play golf than swim or play tennis," he said. "It is quite a difficult course, and quite a number of my friends have got extremely exasperated with it."

The house, built in 1796, contains two Adam-style fireplaces salvaged from the London home of Lord Yarborough's mother, which was destroyed in the second world war. It is for sale through Dickinson, Day & Markham, of Brigg, Humberside.

Asian immigrant appointed QC

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN IMMIGRANT who came to Britain unable to speak English was one of 69 Queen's Counsel announced yesterday. Mukhtar Hussain is also the first barrister from an ethnic minority community practising outside London to be made a QC. Three years ago, he was the first Pakistani to be appointed a recorder of the Crown Court.

Mr Hussain, 42, arrived in England with his parents when he was 13. His father began work as a labourer in a textile mill in Preston, Lancashire, before starting a grocery shop.

Mr Hussain had to go to a special school to learn English before he could begin his full-time studies. He took O and A levels at a technical college and decided not to take up a place at the London School of Economics because he did not want to be a financial burden on his parents.

Instead he went to the College of Law in London to take his legal exams and was called to the Bar at 21. He is based on the northern circuit and specialises in criminal and immigration work.

As he prepared to celebrate taking silk, Mr Hussain, from Rochdale, Greater Manchester, said it proved that if people worked hard enough, they could overcome other disadvantages. "It does not matter about your background or colour," he said. "People can make the breakthrough, though it may take a little longer than normal. The

Law Report

L&T section, page 9



Hussain: puts success down to hard work

Dangers behind carnival mask

NEW Orleans, like the Mardi Gras masks that are sold in souvenir shops, conceal a darkness behind a colourful appeal.

This is the warm Southern city that breaks into riotous festivities every March. It is the city whose heart is the shunned old French Quarter, the home of the Preservation Hall jazz band, of the celebrated if slightly sleazy Bourbon Street, of Cajun and Creole cuisine. It is the starting point for steamboat trips up the Mississippi and visits to the plantation homes of the Old South.

New Orleans attracts 11 million visitors a year and is the third most popular destination in America for foreign travellers. But it is more than that. It is one of the most dangerous cities in the country, where 346 murders were recorded in 1991, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year.

In 1990, according to the FBI, New Orleans had the second highest per capita murder rate of any major American city, beaten only by Washington DC. The rate was 61 victims per 100,000 residents. For the whole of Britain in 1988 the rate was two per 100,000. In 1990 New Orleans moved from having the sev-

enteenth worst overall crime rate in America to the tenth. It suffers the same afflictions as most other American cities, only worse. It has a rampant drug underworld that breeds crime, particularly in its huge public housing projects. Guns are readily available. Louisiana is one of the poorest states.

Exacerbating this blight has been a record of political shenanigans and extremism dating back at least half a century to the days of Governor Huey Long. Metairie, a white suburb of New Orleans, is the base of the race-baiting David Duke, the former state legislator and Ku Klux Klan member running for president. The governor is the roguish Edwin Edwards, who has twice been tried and acquitted on corruption charges and once boasted that only "a dead girl or live boy in my bed" could keep him from winning office.

Admirer leaves Paisley £50,000

By ROBIN YOUNG

IAN Paisley has been left £50,000 in the will of an Englishwoman he never met. Ellen Newton, of Hindhead, Surrey, who died in January aged 86, had seen the Democratic Unionist Party leader only on television and read about him in newspapers.

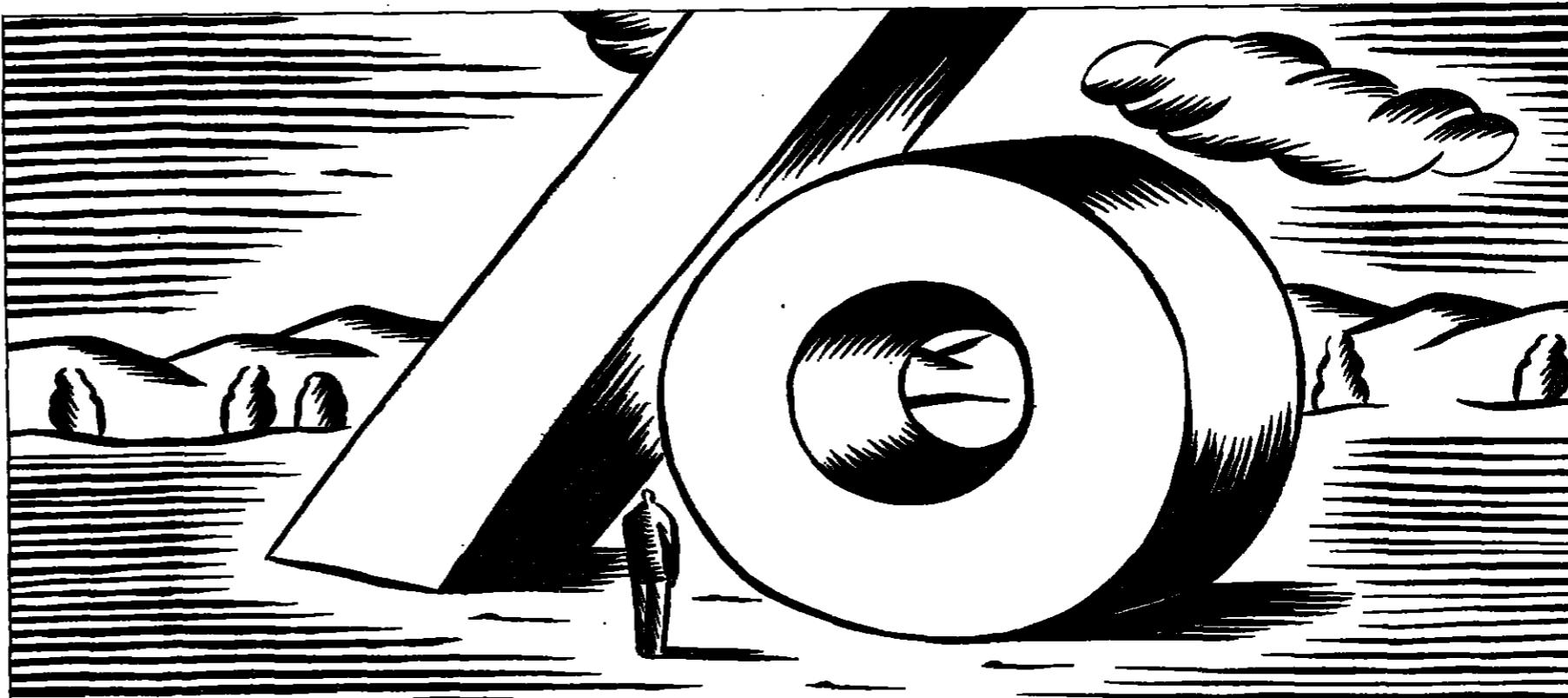
She has left him the money "for the assistance of members of the Protestant community of Northern Ireland suffering financial distress as a result of terrorist activities within the province, as he shall determine".

Mr Paisley's son, Ian, said his father was delighted at the extremely helpful gesture. A trust fund had been set up to invest the money. He said: "If this money had been available after the Teebane massacre it could have been extremely useful to families who lost their only bread winner." Eight Protestant workers were killed when the IRA blew up their minibus at the Co. Tyrone village in January.

Mrs Newton, who had no children, divided all but £1,000 of her £2,791,248 net estate between charities and churches.

Other wills, page 14

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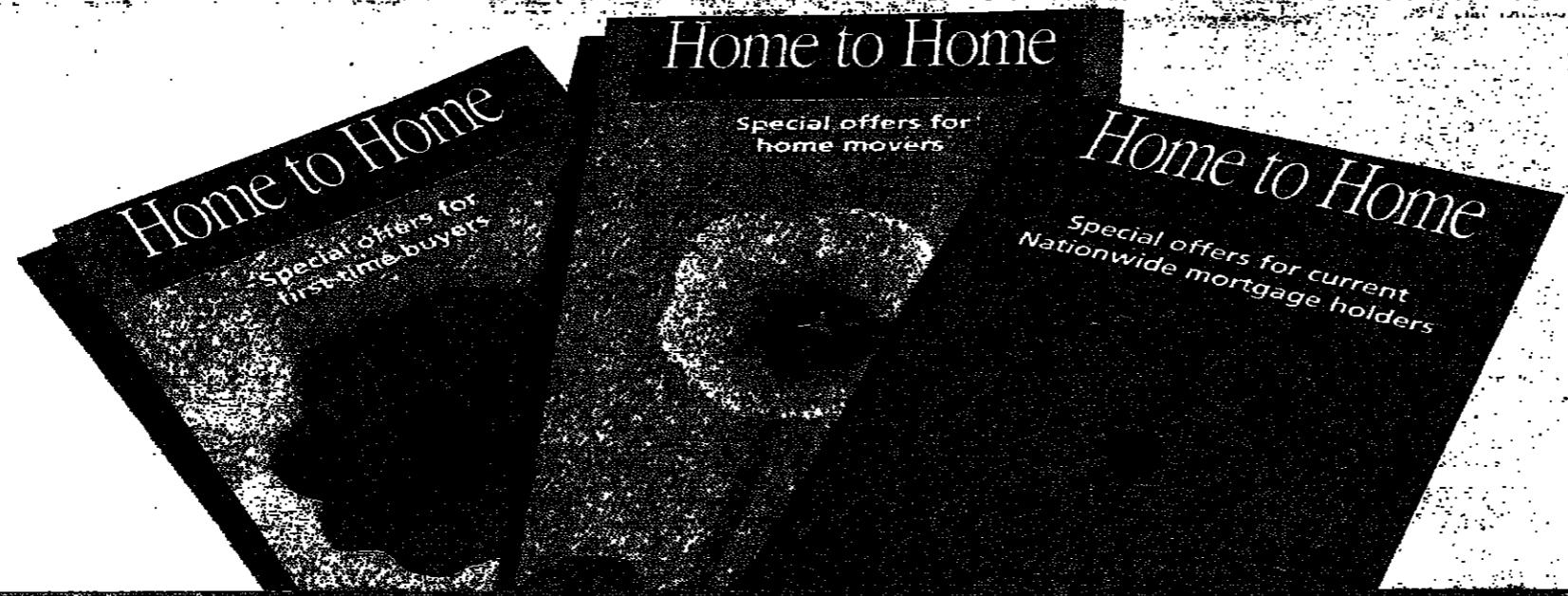
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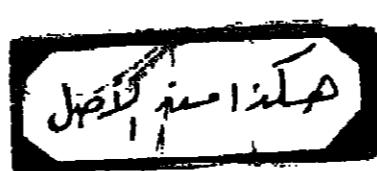
Then the only thing to haunt you in your new home will be a strange white apparition carrying its head under its arm.



The Nation's Building Society

On a loan of £60,000 with a purchase price of £80,000 first time buyers would qualify for a 2.44% discount in the first year off the Society's standard variable rate giving a rate of 8.55%. A rate of 10.55% is assumed in years 2-25. Monthly payments would therefore be £374.07 in year 1 and £461.57 in years 2-25 giving an APR of 11.2% (variable) and Total Amount Payable of £20,768. Home movers taking a loan of £120,000 with a purchase price of £160,000 would qualify for a 1.00% discount in the first year off the Society's standard variable rate giving a rate of 9.9%. A rate of 10.4% is assumed in years 2-25. Monthly payments would therefore be £528.13 in year 1 and £755.00 in years 2-25 giving an APR of 11.1% (variable) and Total Amount Payable of £435,910. Our standard rate is 10.9%. For loans of £60,000 and £120,000 the following would apply: £60,000 loan, monthly payment £661.57, APR 11.3% (variable), Total Amount Payable £221,930; £120,000 loan, monthly payment £975, APR 11.4% (variable), Total Amount Payable £436,032. All examples assume 300 monthly payments over 25 years. Please remember that in addition there is a premium to pay for your endowment policy, which varies according to your own personal circumstances. Typically, a couple (male and female), aged 25, both non-smokers taking out a Nationwide Freedom-for-Homebuyers policy, over a 25 year period (300 payments), would pay a monthly endowment premium of £85 for a £60,000 mortgage and £167 for a £120,000 mortgage. Freedom for Homebuyers is underwritten by Guardian Assurance PLC, a member of Lutro and as a unit-linked contract, cash values will fluctuate with unit prices. Full and overriding details are contained in the illustration, acceptance terms and policy documents. A free copy is available upon request. All interest charges, repayment of capital, legal fees as shown (legal fees assume that the same solicitor acts for both the Society and the borrower and are in accordance with the guidelines agreed between The Building Societies Association and The Law Society), mortgage application fees shown and redemption fees of £35 are included in the APRs indicated. In addition in all discounted examples building and contents insurance (Room Cover) premiums have been included in the APRs in year 1 and building premiums only in years 2-25 for discounted loans above £60,000. An example of a Room Cover monthly premium for a terraced house in York YO6, with 4 habitable rooms would be 4.17% for both buildings and contents insurance, for buildings only, the premium would be £10,16,130 monthly premiums. It is a condition of the Home to Home offers that buildings and contents insurance is taken with the Society in the first year (Contents only if a leasehold property). Building or contents insurance must be taken in years 2-25 if the tiered reduction is taken for loans above £60,000. All payments are quoted net of MIRAS tax relief. The examples assume that the mortgage rates shown will not change. To qualify for Home to Home offers, payment must be made by direct debit from a current account or Nationwide Flexi Account. The offer of free mortgage payment cover is subject to normal qualifying conditions. All mortgages are subject to appraisal of an applicant's financial standing and valuation of the property. Security over your property and in some cases over a suitable life policy will be required. For loans exceeding 75% an additional charge will be made. Mortgage loans are not available to persons under the age of 18. All loans agreed for wholly or partial business purposes do not qualify for the large loan rates of any other Home to Home offer. Nationwide Building Society and Nationwide Estate Agents are appointed representatives of Guardian Royal Exchange Marketing Group (members of which are Members of Lutro and IMRO) only for the purposes of advising on and selling life insurance, pension, trust and personal equity plan products bearing Guardian Royal Exchange's name. For the sale of general insurance, Room Cover is underwritten by General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal Insurance. Mortgage Payment Cover is underwritten by Guardian Royal Exchange. We comply with the Association of British Insurers Code of Practice, a copy of which is available on request. Written quotations are available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, 136 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW. Nationwide Estate Agents is a licensed credit broker. Nationwide is a member of The Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and conforms with The Code of Banking Practice. Freedom is a registered service mark of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance PLC.

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New cervical cancer clue yields faster treatment

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MORE efficient method of screening for cancer of the cervix could help thousands of women whose smear tests are on the borderline.

Scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, University College London and the University Hospital, Nottingham, have shown that the smears can be monitored for the presence of a virus that gives a good indication of whether serious disease is likely.

Of the five million women in Britain who have cervical smear tests to detect early traces of cancer, about 250,000 a year show slight abnormalities. Many women with abnormal smears will never develop cervical cancer but the difficulty until now has been deciding what to do when small abnormalities are detected.

Malcolm Anderson of the Nottingham hospital, one of the authors of the study published in tomorrow's issue of *The Lancet*, says: "In some places, women are offered smear tests at shorter intervals and only referred for treatment if the disease persists or progresses. Elsewhere they are offered colposcopy, which involves a physical examination of the cervix with a microscope. The first could be risky and the second is very costly." The screening service "is inundated by a large number of mildly abnormal smears".

Jack Cusick of the research fund says that of 250,000 women with slight abnormalities, 75,000 women may have an important underlying

disease but without a hospital referral and biopsy there is no means of knowing which they are. Now they believe they may have found a clue which will help determine which smears justify further examination.

The clue is the presence in the cells of a human papilloma virus known as HPV16. The team, which included George Terry and Linda Ho of University College London and Tony Hollingsworth of Nottingham, examined smears from 85 women.

Using the technique of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the amount of DNA from the HPV16 virus present, they were able to show that in almost 90 per cent of the cases, a high level of HPV16 indicated the presence of severe abnormalities.

Dr Cusick says: "There are other methods for detecting HPV, but they are either too laborious or not accurate enough. We think it is very likely that women with only minor abnormalities but high levels of HPV16 may well have high-grade disease and PCR is a technique which can find this out. These women are in need of further investigation by colposcopy and should not be followed up only by a repeat smear and surveillance."

At present, the polymerase chain reaction machines are not widely available but the team believes that they could be provided if the need were demonstrated.

Health, L&T section, pages 5, 6

Butterfly raiders set breeders a-flutter

By DAVID YOUNG

POLICE in rural areas, accustomed to looking out for poachers, cattle rustlers and sheep stealers, have now been told to be on the alert for butterfly thieves.

The gangs are not only stealing valuable rare butterflies but by smashing into glass conservatories where butterflies breed they are threatening to cause changes in temperature and humidity which would kill off entire collections. Security is now being improved at Britain's butterfly farms.

The thieves are believed to be experts who are seeking only the more valuable insects which they mount and sell to collectors. In a raid earlier this week thieves escaped with specimens of the Blue Morpho butterfly from a centre at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Cameras are being used at the New Forest butterfly farm near Ashurst, Hampshire, to monitor the area for signs of thieves. At the farm, Annette Todhunter

Coroner discharged after porn phone calls

The Avon coroner has been discharged, four months after it was disclosed that telephone calls were made from his office last year to soft porn and other "adult" telephone lines. Donald Hawkins had been on sick leave since last December, when details of the calls became public.

An auditor acting for Avon council found that 33 calls costing £137 had been made from Mr Hawkins' office between July and October. One call lasted 15 minutes.

Avon council said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, discharged Donald Hawkins from office as coroner for Avon due to permanent ill health."

Moonies win

The Unification Church, whose members are known as Moonies, has won planning permission for a 120-acre riding centre and cross-country course at Stanton Fitzwarren, Wiltshire. Its application was supported by locals.

Kidnap demand

Michael Sams, 50, of Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire, was remanded in custody for a further seven days by Birmingham magistrates, charged with murdering Julie Dart, kidnapping Stephanie Slater and demanding money with menaces.

Lineker treated

George Lineker, the six-month-old son of England footballer Gary Lineker, has had a further week of chemotherapy at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Jonathan Holmes, Mr Lineker's agent, said that doctors were happy with his progress.

Victim named

A boy who drowned when he was swept into the sea at Burton Bradstock, Dorset, on Wednesday has been named by police as Mark Cleverly, 12, of Hengrove, Bristol.

Nursing first

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps has admitted men for the first time as it begins integration with the Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Army Dental Corps.

Radio show

BBC Radio is to mark 70 years of broadcasting with a stage show and exhibition at Broadcasting House, central London.



The Blue Morpho, a prime target for theft

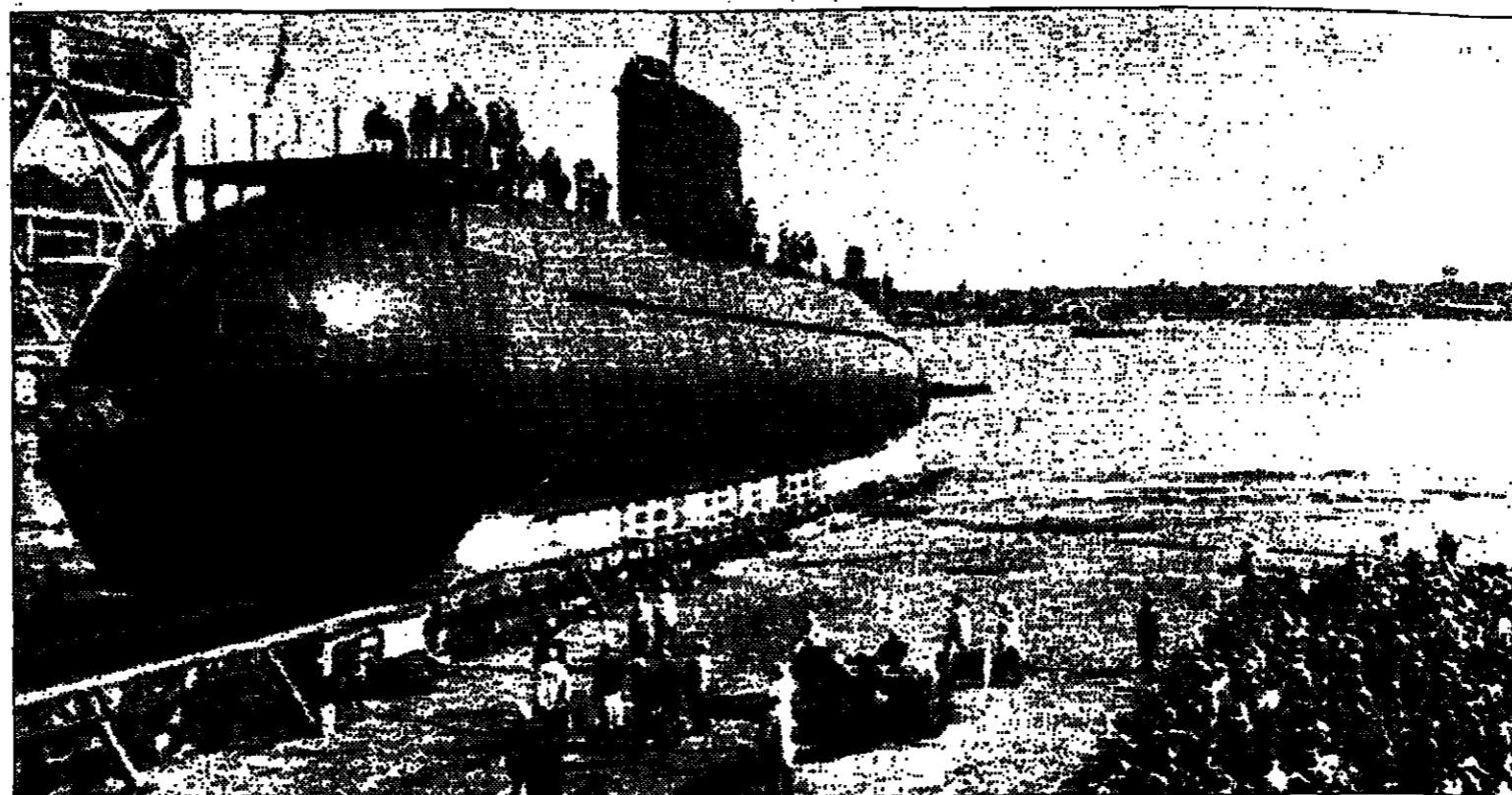
said: "We have over 40 types of butterfly here and we couldn't afford to lose any. We have never had any problems, but there are many places that have, so we must be alert."

"Although there is quite a trade in breeding butterflies, I doubt that it is breeders who are carrying out these thefts. After all, most species don't live any longer than three weeks, so there wouldn't be much point."

"To me, it sounds like they are taken to be killed, framed and sold to collectors. You would need to be an expert to catch them in the first place."

The main target for butterfly raiders thefts is the Blue Morpho, a bright iridescent Malaysian species with a 5in wing span. It is imported into Britain in the pupae stage of development to maintain the stock at butterfly farms.

The pupae, worth £10 each, are kept in locked zones until they hatch suffering a 25 per cent mortality rate.



Mixed feelings: HMS *Unicorn* slipping into the waters of the River Mersey yesterday, ending an era in shipbuilding at Birkenhead.

Cammell Laird is scheduled for closure by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering, its parent company.

Workers and management are pinning their hopes of a reprieve on an appeal to Michael Heseltine, the new trade and industry secretary. The yard is scheduled to wind down slowly, shedding jobs at a rate of 100 a month. At a press conference yesterday, Vickers chiefs cited the end of the Cold War as a major factor in its demise. Lord Chalfont, the chairman, announced

that the company had so far failed to find a buyer for the shipyard as a whole. He blamed the recession and the contraction of the defence industry.

"I do not believe that the reconstruction of the defence industry should be left entirely to commercial interests — the government has to be involved in this," he said.

HMS *Unicorn* is the last of three Upholder-class subs built for the Royal Navy at the shipyard. The diesel-electric powered hunter-kill

submarine will carry 44 officers and crew and cost the defence ministry £100 million. She should be handed over to the Navy in June after fitting-out in dry dock.

The shipyard was founded 160 years ago by John Laird. At its peak, it employed 40,000 men and today remains Birkenhead's biggest single employer. Historic vessels built there include HMS *Conqueror*, the submarine that sank the Belgrano, and HMS *Ark Royal*, Britain's first aircraft carrier.

Six jailed for £17m mortgage fraud

SIX men who ran a mortgage fraud which netted nearly £3 million in three months were jailed yesterday at Winchester crown court.

A jury was told that mortgages well above the prices of properties, including hotels, were obtained from a building society and two banks. The six were convicted of deception charges involving more than £17 million in loans from the Bank of Scotland, Lombard North Central and the Alliance and Leicester Building Society.

Kamlesh Panchal, 29, of Wembley, north London, described as the operation's planner, fellow accountant Rajinder Kumar, 55, also of Wembley, and Giles Saldanha, 46, a solicitor's clerk from Burnham, Buckinghamshire, were each jailed for two years.

James Lancaster, 42, of Bracknell, Berkshire, an experienced land valuer, was jailed for 15 months. Harjit Singh, 28, of Hounslow, west London, was given 12 months, and Janail Diana, 38, of Southall, north London, six.



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WINNER OF LE MANS 91



Afghan Ox turned chameleon reaches end of road

THE most remarkable thing about Mohammad Najibullah, or the Ox as he is known, is that he survived in power in Kabul for so long.

When the last Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan in February 1989, leaving him strutting in his presidential palace there was hardly a western diplomat in the region who did not predict his imminent downfall.

It was said that his army was ill-disciplined and incapable of defending the capital against mujahidin guerrillas fired with the scent of victory. Kabul was thought to be acutely vulnerable to blockade once the key Salang highway — linking Afghanistan with the then Soviet Union — had been cut by guerrillas under the command of Ahmad Shah Masood.

Through it all Dr Najibullah survived, despite such narrow escapes as the attempted coup in March 1990 when Shahmawaz Tanai, his hardline defence minister, joined forces with elements of the armed forces and received help from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the radical Islamic guerrilla leader. But the writing was on the wall after the failure of the Soviet coup.

President Najibullah was widely hated, even by those who had thrown in their lot with his regime. As head of the much feared, KGB-trained Khad secret police before being installed as president, he allegedly organised the torture and killing of hundreds of people. He had become a puppet of his Soviet masters — the infidels who had respect for the Koran.

But President Najibullah, neither a fool nor a coward, remained defiantly confident in those dramatic days and, in retrospect, with some justification. With a chameleonic-like ability to adapt his political colour, he calculated that by moving away from the rigid communist platform on which he built his power base he could broaden his appeal to Afghans fed up with more than a decade of war. He bought off many smaller guerrilla commanders, giving them positions of responsibility in his government while calling for a peace process that would encompass all the warring groups in Afghanistan: mujahidin moderates and extremists, supporters of the former king Zahir Shah, representatives of the refugees in Iran and Pakistan and the old communists of the two main factions, the Khalq (masses) and Parcham (flag).

His survival was partly due also to the chronic inability of resistance groups to sink their differences for long enough to mount an effective military campaign. But in the end he could only play a weak hand for a limited time. Most Afghans still associate him with communism and with the slaughter carried out by the Soviet and Afghan armies during the war. The collapse of the Soviet Union must have unsettled him and left him stranded, desperately trying to change his political line to meet the new realities.

Dr Najibullah was still hated by the mujahidin and they consistently refused to deal publicly with him or other

As tough as he was burly, President Najibullah was the great survivor of Afghanistan politics. Edward Gorman looks back on a remarkable career



Pointed gesture: former president Najibullah asserting himself during his days in power
leaders of the government. That did not stop leading mujahidin figures based in Pakistan and Iran from secretly meeting Dr Najibullah or his representatives in Europe and the Middle East. Dr Najibullah is a big man — perhaps 18 stone — who was reported at one time to have 20 mistresses on whom he lavished expensive presents. He earned his nickname, the Ox, while at university, an indication of his size and a strength which he developed through his keen interest in weightlifting and wrestling. He also en-

joyed swimming, tennis and other sports at university.

He is soft-spoken, with penetrating brown eyes, but exudes dynamism and authority. "He has an easy charm, but can suddenly change his manner from a relaxed pleasantness to cold, steel-like suspicion," one acquaintance said.

He was born in 1947 to a middle-class Pathan family in the eastern provincial city of Gardez and spent much of his childhood in the Pakistani frontier town of Peshawar, where his enemies based themselves during the war.

Najibullah together with other Parchami leaders was sent into virtual exile — in his case as ambassador to Iran. After abandoning from the embassy and looting it of its cash he disappeared to eastern Europe, not resurfacing again until the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 when he returned to the capital with Babrak Karmal, the new president, leading a régime supported by Moscow and dominated by Parchamis.

At that time Dr Najibullah was a fervent and ambitious believer in the communist cause, convinced of the need for sweeping change in Afghanistan including radical land reforms, many of which have since been abandoned. His loyalty was rewarded when he was made head of the Khad in 1979, a position he held until 1986 when he took over from an "unwell" Karmal who retreated by way of a one-way ticket to Moscow. Dr Najibullah promptly purged 15 Karmal supporters from the central committee and stiffened party discipline with an oath of loyalty to himself.

In the old Soviet Union Dr Najibullah could always bank on a comfortable dacha outside Moscow if things started getting too difficult for him in Kabul. Now the Russians may not be so keen on entertaining their former ally and he may have to look further afield — perhaps Chile — for a retirement home.

Attempt to flee, page 1
Leading article, page 13



Power play: one of the young mujahidin who took up arms against Najibullah's forces

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Toothbrush and Tumbler Holder with Tumbler	£1.50	£9.99
Towel Ring	£1.50	£9.99
Single Towel Rail	£13.50	£10.99
Vanity Shelf	£13.50	£10.99
Bathroom Mirror	£19.50	£15.99
Double Towel Rail	£45.50	£11.99
OCASIONAL FURNITURE		
Tetbury Block or White 465 x 665 x 355mm	£77.50	£14.99
Butterfly Dining Set Comprise table and four chairs	£129.50	£99.99
Malmo Dining Set Comprise round black melamine top table and four chairs	£59.50	£49.99

Money market gives currency to Kabul's gloom

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

NOTHING captures the mood of Kabul more than its money market, a ramshackle collection of wooden, tin-roofed shops where Sikhs and Hindus deal openly, if illegally, in hard currency. The verdict yesterday was definitive: the market lowered its steel shutters and closed.

"What is going to happen?" Waryam Singh asked. "People are not coming to Kabul any more because it is too dangerous. I have been changing no more than \$4,000 (£2,270) a day for weeks."

Most larger shops in the scruffy city have closed, fearing looters at a time when law and order are breaking down.

The marketplaces, however, continue selling produce to those still able to pay the prohibitive prices. Veiled women sit on pavements and beg, some with their sick children sleeping beside them. Boys run around with tin cans begging, and war

victims hobble on crutches, hands outstretched for a few coins.

Vegetables have nearly doubled in price in recent weeks, and meat is for the privileged mujahidin.

Encroaching mujahidin

have cut off Kabul from its hinterland, and little is getting through.

Even the Japanese television sets and electronic goods that used to be piled high in the shops are in short supply

because the smuggling route from central Asia has been severed by the mujahidin seizure of the Salang highway.

Lorry drivers know they will be robbed, so they don't come.

Muhammad Jon, a sales-

soldier said. "Like everybody, all we want is peace. It doesn't matter who is in power." The soldier is a teenager. He will desert if it suits him. It has been said that anybody can hire an Afghan, but nobody can own him. Allegiances are transactions of convenience. The soldier said he had a brother in the mujahidin: they were still friends.

Soldiers lounged outside a ministry of posts building, smoking Japanese cigarettes and chewing Danish gum. Afghanistan is country of smugglers: until now practically everything could be acquired from anywhere in the world. Now there are shortages. "I don't care if Najibullah is in power or not," one

soldier said.

Muhammad Zaman is one

of the few gold merchants still displaying his wares. Around him stalls are filled with potatoes, onions and rice that few people can afford. Boys steal bread from a big pile on the roadside. The vendor doesn't chase them. It is already stale because customers are few.

Palestinian group offers to fight for Gaddafi

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

AS ARABS rallied to the side of Libya in its latest conflict with the West, Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and once widely accused of masterminding the Lockerbie bombing, told a protest rally in Syria that Palestinians were ready to fight alongside Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

Mr Jibril told an angry gathering at the Yarmuk refugee camp that his commandos were waiting for the word from Colonel Gaddafi "to immediately champion the Libyan people".

The pledge carries an implicit threat of a new wave of anti-Western terrorism in response to the United Nations sanctions imposed against Libya. Extra security measures have been ordered at American, British and French installations in Middle East cities.

"We all know about the real Libyan story," claimed Mr Jibril, whose men were once trained by Libyan security men in camps near Tripoli. "It is not that of a Pan Ameri-

can airliner, but it is Washington's desire to dominate the entire Arab Maghreb where big quantities of crude oil were struck."

Although nearly all Arab states have cut off relations with Libya, most took no action against Libyan diplomats, as required by the UN

Security Council.

Jibril: waiting for the word from Gaddafi

resolution. A number, including Syria and Sudan, gave official backing to the Libyans.

In a blow to the new alliances formed in the region by

British sail to Malta as Libya flights end

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN VALLETTA, MALTA

AT LEAST 400 foreigners

working in Libya, some British, arrived here yesterday on board the first Libyan ship to dock in Malta since United Nations sanctions cut flights to and from Libya.

Malta, which has close ties with Libya, offers one of the more convenient ways get around the air travel embargo, as there is regular ferry service between Valletta and Tripoli and roughly 200 miles apart. Sea travel is not covered by the sanctions.

Reporters at the port estimated that between 600 and 700 passengers disembarked, but port sources said the number was a couple of hundred lower. The largest national group among the foreigners aboard the *Toletta* was Maltese. There were also dozens of Filipinos and Indians and some British, Canadians and Dutch. The ship had carried Libyans.

Most foreigners on the ship work for oil companies, and many of them were leaving the country as part of their annual holiday. "The formalities to leave Libya on the ship were simple, and life in the

country appears quite normal," one Italian businessman said.

Many workers said they planned to go back to their jobs after spending time off with their families. In Malta they planned to take flights to other destinations.

The *Toletta* is a cruise ship which doubles as a cargo vessel when passengers are few. Port sources said the ship is not usually so full. Hours after the sanctions went into force, a Maltese hydrofoil company announced that agreement had been reached to begin five round trips weekly between the island and Libya.

Air Malta said yesterday that it was trying to get permission for flights between Valletta and Jersey Island, off the Tunisian coast. Passengers landing in Jersey could then eventually go into Libya by land.

Malta is adhering to the sanctions. A Libyan commercial airliner was turned back on Wednesday night on the edge of Maltese airspace, transport officials in Valletta reported.

Ancient feuds glossed over in the Holy Sepulchre

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

WHEN the first of 40,000 Christian pilgrims pass through the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the Good Friday services they will discover that Christendom's holiest site remains a living monument to man's frailty, 2,000 years after Jesus Christ was crucified, buried and resurrected for their sins.

While some worshippers may be still able to experience a spiritual sensation as they proceed down the steps of Calvary to the tomb of Christ, it will take great effort to blot out the soul-destroying vision before them. The rival Christian denominations who control the Holy Sepulchre have

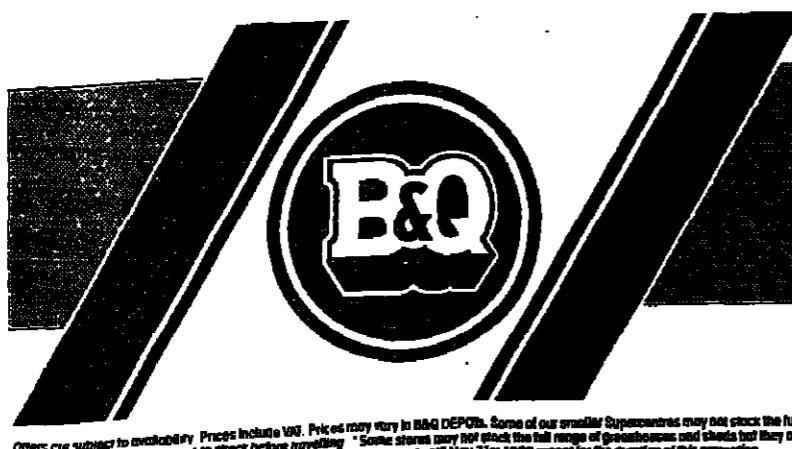
been in open competition for so many centuries that the building has been transformed into a warren of chapels, each gaudier than the next, and incongruously situated beside crumbling masonry and roofing, the result of continued wrangling over who has the right to repair the church.

"One expects the central shrine of Christendom to stand out in majestic isolation, but anonymous buildings cling to it like barnacles," wrote Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a Dominican monk and biblical archaeologist, in his book *The Holy Land*. "One looks for luminous light, but it is dark and cramped. One

hallowed site has been infiltrated by Christians.

A first-time visitor can detect that all is not well in the bosom of Christendom by making discreet enquiries with the church doorkeeper, a Muslim Palestinian from the Nusseibeh family, who have held the keys to the Holy Sepulchre for centuries. Last month, for instance, the three dominant churches agreed what colours to paint the church dome. But what they will only admit with reluctance is that this small point of interior design took more than 30 years to negotiate and seems to offer little hope that the thornier disputes will ever be resolved.

Daniel Johnson, page 12



Fall of a merchant prince shakes Italian business

ONE of the greatest merchant princes of Italian finance, Carlo De Benedetti, was convicted of fraud yesterday and sentenced to six years and four months' imprisonment for his role in the 1982 crash of Banco Ambrosiano, the Milan bank headed by the late Roberto Calvi. The business empire co-ordinated by De Benedetti includes a controlling share through his Compagnie Industriale Riunite holding company in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The bank collapsed in August 1982 50 days after the lifeless body of Calvi, the Ambrosiano chairman, was found hanging from scaffolding under Blackfriars Bridge in London. Investigators still have not agreed whether Calvi, known as "God's Banker" because of his ties to the Vatican, committed suicide or was murdered.

Also among those convicted yesterday was Licio Gelli, the self-styled Grand Master of the banned Propaganda

The trial of financiers linked to the fall of Banco Ambrosiano was a postscript to a scandal that engulfed Italy's establishment, John Phillips writes

Due (P2) masonic lodge to which Calvi also belonged. Gelli, who refused to attend the trial because the authorities would not let him visit his wife, who is ill in France, received a prison term of 18 years and six months.

The image of the Italian establishment has never recovered from the P2 affair, and some commentators believe the defeat of the Christian Democrats in the recent Italian general election was partly a delayed reaction against the political corruption the scandal has exposed since it emerged in 1981. The discovery of the P2 scandal had brought down the government of Arnaldo Forlani, now secretary of the Christian Democrat party.

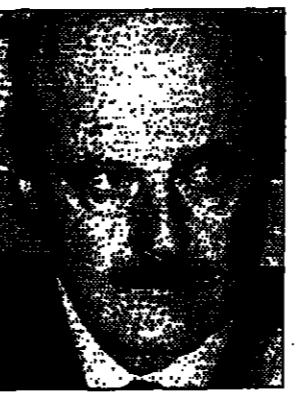
The conviction of De Bene-

detti was a bizarre postscript to the murky P2 affair, which involved cabinet ministers, generals, journalists and businessmen in what may have been a plot to destroy Italian democratic institutions. In 1986, Michele Sindona, a financier who once advised the Vatican, died after drinking a poisoned cup of coffee. Four days earlier he had been jailed for life for the murder of a lawyer who had been the liquidator of his Italian banking empire.

Banco Ambrosiano folded with debts worth the equivalent of \$1 billion (£568 million). But much of this was recovered by the liquidators and through a transaction with the Vatican bank, the Institute for Religious Works, which in 1984 paid



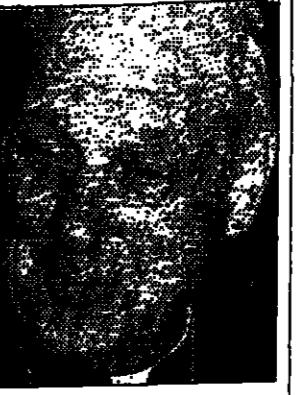
De Benedetti: found guilty of fraud



Calvi: London death remains a mystery



Gelli: Grand Master of the P2 lodge



Marcinkus: indictment had been cancelled

tumbl on the Milan stock exchange when the judges issued the sentence after a week of deliberation in the trial that opened in May 1990.

Lawyers acting for De Benedetti, nicknamed "L'Ingegnere" (the Engineer) here because of his all pervasive influence on the peninsula, said they would appeal against what they called "a sentence as unexpected as it

is disconcerting for anybody who knows the facts and still believes in the law."

"During the hearing not one sole proof of co-responsibility of Carlo De Benedetti in the collapse of the bank emerged," said the lawyers Giandomenico Pisapia and Marco de Luca in a statement. "We will immediately lodge an appeal."

The prison sentence handed down to De Benedetti in

connection with Italy's biggest post-war bankruptcy was two months longer than the public prosecutor, Pier Luigi dell'Osso, had requested. However, he remained free after the sentence because under Italian law most people convicted of a crime do not have to start a prison term unless the conviction is confirmed by both an appeal court and the supreme court.

Britain condemns Serb aggression

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT AND TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

IN ONE of its strongest statements yet on Yugoslavia, Britain yesterday condemned the violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a deliberate attempt by Serbian extremists to undermine the republic's territorial integrity and destroy the constitution brokered by the European Community.

The Foreign Office said Serbian paramilitary units bore the main responsibility for bloodshed and for driving many innocent civilians from their homes. It also deplored the activities of the federal army, which it said had openly sided with terrorists instead of separating the warring factions. "Serbia cannot expect a settled place in international institutions if it instigates civil war in Bosnia or the partition of that republic," the statement said.

Britain called for an immediate halt to the fighting, an end to outside interference and the return of the federal army to its barracks. The paramilitary groups should be disbanded, and all parties should renew their co-operation.

A map of the Balkans region, specifically focusing on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia. It shows the coastline of the Adriatic Sea and the locations of major cities like Sarajevo, Mostar, and Foca.

tion with the United Nations and Cyrus Vance, its special representative.

Further condemnation came from Germany and the United States, which want to punish Serbia by suspending Yugoslavia's seat at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. A German foreign ministry statement said James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, had reached agreement over the move. Herr Genscher had sent a five-point message to the EC demanding the suspension of the Yugoslav seat, held by the

Serb-dominated rump state, if Serbia and the federal army do not change policy.

Shrugging off criticism, the Serb-led federal army crushed Muslim resistance in a key town in Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday. Troops entered the predominantly Muslim city of Visegrad, Tanjug news agency reported. Overnight fighting was reported in Sarajevo, Foca, about 30 miles southeast of the Bosnian capital and Mostar, inland from Croatia's Adriatic coast.

Mr Vance ruled out the dispatch of UN peacekeeping troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The former American Secretary of State, who yesterday began a series of meetings with Bosnia's ethnic leaders and the Sarajevo commander of the Yugoslav army, insisted that a solution could be found only through EC-sponsored talks.

The British statement drew attention to a radio interview given by Douglas Hurd on Wednesday, in which the foreign secretary spoke about past trade sanctions against Serbia. He said: "The Serbs know that they can't exist in isolation, that they are at the heart of Europe and there is no way in which they can survive or continue isolated, cut off from their neighbours." He said the West needed to use those facts "to bring them to reasonable behaviour in the republics of Yugoslavia".

The Foreign Office said that Croatian extremist groups shared the blame to a lesser extent, but the weight of its unusually forceful condemnation fell squarely on Mr Joxe.

Fighting in Bosnia over the past month has led to 170,000 people fleeing their homes, according to the Sarajevo office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "This is the largest, fastest-moving refugee situation since the Kurds fled," said Fabrizio Hochschild, a spokesman. "We are preparing for a quarter of a million refugees."

● Paris: The Western European Union parliamentary assembly has urged the nine-nation defence group to send a peacekeeping force to Bosnia. The Maastricht treaty defined the WEU as the future defence arm of the EC. (Reuters)



Reaching out: a child holds out its hand to a hooded man leading the traditional Holy Week procession, pass by in Seville, where Expo '92 opens on Monday. The event, however, may be disrupted by a nationwide strike of hotel workers.

'Kill the rich' rebels mourn death of terror

The end of communism and suspension of violence by urban terrorists has left Berlin's anarchists deprived of inspiration, Anne McElvoy writes

The huddle of leather jackets and Palestinian-style scarves around the metal tables of one of Kreuzberg's more disreputable cafes had the distinct look of a wake. Gloom was etched on the unshaven faces of Berlin's disenchanted, many of whom sympathise openly with terrorism, after the announcement that the Red Army Faction was to suspend its 20-year campaign of violence.

Jens, sporting the popular "Kill the Rich" sticker, said: "They were our frontline warriors in the struggle against capitalism. They were the only force strong enough to shake up this rotten, self-satisfied society."

Others were debating whether there was a point in trying to fight "state violence" any longer now that even the professionals seem to be throwing in the bloodied towel. Kreuzberg is preparing itself for the ritual May Day street battles between masked protesters called *Autonomen*, whose idea of a good day out entails throwing a petrol bomb followed by a bit of rough-and-tumble with the robust Berlin police.

The *Autonomen* are unlikely to renounce the thrill of living on the edge of the underworld, but since the collapse of communism, they looked like a bunch of rebels in search of an elusive cause. Anti-capitalist slogans have been replaced by a plethora of causes. "Against speculators — male or female" reads one daubed message from a politically-correct paintbrush.

Indifferent to their own country's politics, many have switched their focus to the plight of Turkey and joined the local anti-government faction. Look carefully and you can even find vintage graffiti from the glory years of the 1970s. "Free Asiad Prolit" demands faded lettering near a disused station. A disrespectful hand has more recently added: "With every box of cornflakes."

At the squat that bears the name of the Office for the Organisation of Unexpected Events — a peculiarly teutonic combination of anarchy and bureaucracy — there was no one at home. The organisation

had no plans for spontaneous disruption, his girl friend said. He had recently taken up swimming.

The 15-person command of the Red Army Faction this week wrote to Bonn promising to renounce violence in return for a reduction in sentences of its longest-serving prisoners. Experts on terrorism said the move confirmed their impression of deep frustration within the movement at its failure to change German society.

Another group calling itself the Revolutionary Cells recently disbanded with a despatch farewell-to-arms letter:

"We no longer feel that our efforts are worthwhile. Imperialist Germany has swallowed up socialist Germany, and the influence of capital is as brittle and absolute as ever."

Klaus Kinkel, the justice minister, has indicated that he is ready to take a softer line with prisoners in an attempt to break what he has called "the unhappy 20-year cycle" of atrocities prompting Draconian sentences leading to further violence. He has let it be known that if the Red Army Faction ceases to organise attacks, some imprisoned terrorists could be freed on the ground that they would no longer be able to return to the underground.

The collapse of East Germany removed both an ideological inspiration and a safe haven. Ten wanted activists were found to be living under false names in the east. Many of them had cut sorry figures in court, saying they had put their violent pasts behind them and regretted their involvement. Their fate may have acted as a warning to today's urban guerrillas that terrorism and middle age do not mix.

The Red Army Faction attacked the alienated children of industrialists, bankers and politicians who had risen to social prominence in the 1960s. It exuded a potent, romantic appeal. In recent years the attacks became fewer, but the targets grander. The last victim, shot dead last Easter Monday, was Detlev Rohwedder, head of Treuhand, the agency responsible for privatisation in the East.

France cuts armed forces by a quarter

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE yesterday followed the example of Britain and other Nato allies by announcing cuts in the French conscript army of up to 25 per cent, reducing manpower from 280,000 to 220,000 over the next five years. The equivalent of a division will be scrapped each year.

The reductions announced by Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, will also affect the air force and navy, with a proposed cut in combat aircraft from 450 to fewer than 400 and the closure of several naval air bases.

The move by France echoes defence cuts already announced by many other Nato

reducing the army by 25 per cent over the next three years, bringing the total down from 156,000 to 116,000. About 25,000 British troops will be staying in Germany.

M Joxe said that troops traditionally based near the German border would be redeployed and modernised for new missions. He said the Gulf war had underlined the need to increase the number of career soldiers in relation to conscripts. About 10,000 regular Foreign Legion troops were sent to the Gulf. More than half of next year's cuts will affect units made up mostly of conscripts, each of whom normally do a ten-month national service.

The defence ministry in Paris said cuts would affect 24,000 soldiers and 4,750 civilians working for the military next year. This year 15,000 military and 3,300 civilian jobs are going.

Next year's reductions will mainly affect French forces in Germany and northern and eastern France. An army corps based in the German town of Baden-Baden, an infantry division near Amiens in the north of France and an airbase at Strasbourg are to be dissolved.

Gilles de Robien, mayor of Amiens and a member of the conservative opposition, condemned the cuts as hasty at a time of instability in the former Soviet Union. "Lowering our guard seems precipitate and could make our country vulnerable," he said.

M Joxe admitted that the break-up of the Soviet Union had led to much uncertainty. He recognised the risks from "massive and cheap imports of weapons" from the former Soviet states.

However, he told the National Assembly defence committee, that France, "like other Western democracies", was striving to "stabilise its defence spending". He said his goal was gradually to reduce the strength of the army by 25 per cent as in Britain and Germany.

Joxe plans to stabilise defence expenditure members, following a review of military budgets after the end of the Cold War.

The largest reduction in troops based in Europe is planned by the United States, with the American military presence coming down by about half, from 300,000 to 150,000 by 1994.

Canada shocked the rest of Nato in February by declaring that all its 7,000 troops in Europe would be withdrawn by 1994. The Canadian government is under pressure to change its mind.

Britain, which was among the first Nato countries to announce planned cuts in armed forces' manpower is

Raisa laments hard times

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

RAISA Gorbachev, the former Soviet first lady who is in Japan with her husband at the end of a ten-day tour, appears to have enjoyed the sightseeing and shopping in Tokyo's department stores so much that she is loath to go home and resume a lifestyle

she says is plagued with all the economic difficulties that affect the country.

Prompting visions of her queuing among Moscow's busy houses for scraps of frozen cabbage, Mrs Gorbachev told her family's housewives that her medical services have been affected drastically since Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation in

December. "Our home is not immune to the economic problems plaguing our country," she said. Her daughter and son-in-law were looking for extra jobs "because their salaries as doctors are not enough to make ends meet".

However, thanks to their invitation to Japan by a committee headed by Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister, Mr and Mrs Gorbachev may now be in a position to ease their financial difficulties. For his participation in several conferences and his willingness to smile to television cameras on a visit to Tokyo Disneyland, Mr Gorbachev is being paid an undisclosed fee. *Pravda* esti-

mated last week that Mr Gorbachev could earn \$500,000 (£284,000) during the trip, but a spokesman for the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, one of the sponsors, denied this, saying only that a "moderate" sum would be paid.

But what is moderate by Japanese standards is likely to be colossal in the eyes of Mr Gorbachev's compatriots.

Liberative lecture tours have become the prerogative of former world leaders. Ronald Reagan, the former American president, still hangs on to his position at the top of the Japanese pecking order of retired leaders, and is said to have received up to \$2 million for his tour.

Traditional corner shops are very hard. Less than 5 per cent of the average French shopping basket is now bought there.

As for strong drink, while the French still top the world

plunged by nearly a third to 31.7 litres a year.

About 20 per cent of the average French family's income now goes on food, which is sharply down over the past decade; perhaps the savings goes towards paying for the other national passions, looking good and taking long, exotic holidays.

It is a pleasure to report, however, that all is not turned upside down in the land of serious gastronomie.

Whatever the allure of fast foods and soft drinks in front of the telly, the French still regard eating out as one of the hallmarks of a truly mature civilisation, and they go at it with such gusto that the share of their budget devoted to restaurants has all but doubled to over 19 per cent during the past ten

years. Hooray for them and long may it last: one does not go to live in Paris to be confronted with fast foods, nor, come to that, to be surrounded by faddists giving warnings about the dangers posed by a richly bourgeois diet.

Did we not read lately of the extraordinary good health enjoyed by the good people of Gascony, who were practically weaned on foie gras?

Is it permissible for an exile to add, in conclusion, that whatever the French do or do not eat, they appear to thrive on it. Without a statistic to hand, one would still feel safe in asserting that there are far fewer overweight and pasty people on the streets of France than there are on the other side of the Channel.

Russia votes to change name again

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

THE Russian parliament voted yesterday to change the name of the country from the Russian Federation to Russia, the third name change since August.

President Yeltsin and some of his aides had proposed retaining the name Russian Federation, as the country has been known since the Soviet collapse last year. Before then the country was called the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, one of the 15 Soviet republics.

After 25 minutes of debate the Congress of People's Deputies voted 871 to 30, with 30 abstentions, to amend the constitution to make the name "Rossiya" in Russian,



consumption table, the amount of wine now consumed per capita has

ORLANDO
LOS ANGELES
TORONTO
JOHANNESBURG
SYDNEY
DARWIN
AUCKLAND
HONG KONG
TOKYO
BANGKOK

Big discounts on schedules

WE DON'T JUST TELL YOU
WE DO IT

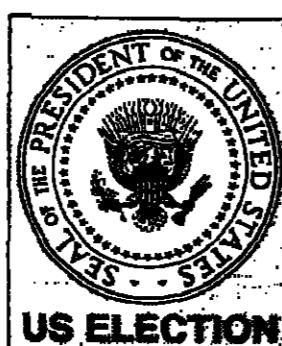
Support for populist billionaire alarms Bush and Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE Wall Street Journal has never been an enemy of multimillionaires. Nevertheless, the newspaper carried two columns of letters yesterday from readers outraged by a columnist's disparagement of Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who is likely to run for president this year.

Mr Perot was "the best hope this nation has to fix an economic mess neither party can correct", wrote John Clark of New York. "If our political leadership is hellbent on taking us off the financial cliff, it may be somewhat better to know that the Texas billionaire is in the saddle," declared Robert Ferguson of Virginia.

R.J. McCrory of North Carolina spoke of a "gigantic swell of hope" since Mr Perot came forward. "His candidacy taps a latent energy that will bring about a change in American politics approach-



US ELECTION

ing the collapse of the USSR. Just wait and see. Even though it's not visible from the Potomac, it is clear elsewhere."

The strength of Mr Perot's populist challenge is, in fact, becoming increasingly apparent in Washington. Two polls yesterday showed one in four Americans backing him even before he has begun campaigning.

Commentators now talk of his being the strongest independent presidential bid

since Theodore Roosevelt won 27 per cent as a Progressive in 1912, and do not dismiss an outright victory.

The Republican and Democratic hierarchies contend with some justification that Mr Perot's support can only diminish as the electorate learns more about him. He has only the vaguest programme for government, no political experience and no national machine. What he does have, however, is that rare ability for a billionaire to tap into the ordinary American's present rage, an image as patriot and self-made businessman of almost mythical proportions, and the ability to spend more money than President Bush and Bill Clinton combined.

He has pledged to spend \$100 million (£57 million) or "whatever it takes" on his campaign. "The potential is mindboggling," Bob Beckel, the Democratic consultant who ran Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign, said. "You could reach virtually every disaffected voter and the others could only stand by and watch. You could also buy up a whole wad of commercial air time in October to make it difficult for the others to find any good time."

Mr Perot says his supporters must get him on the ballot in all 50 states before he will agree to stand, but few now doubt that he will formally declare in June. A survey in *The Washington Post* yesterday gave him 23 per cent support, just one point behind Mr Clinton with Mr Bush on 37. *A Wall Street Journal* poll gave him 26 per cent to Mr Clinton's 30 and Mr Bush's 38.

The White House fears Mr Perot will siphon off critical support for Mr Bush in the key electoral states of Texas and California, but the *Journal* poll, the most comprehensive yet, contains warnings for both parties. It shows he has support in all regions and is beating Mr Clinton in the west, draws votes from Mr Clinton and Mr Bush, and enjoys more support among independent voters than the other two combined.

But President Fujimori told Japanese reporters last Wednesday that "there is no arrest order for political opposition members", including Señor García and Carlos García y García. Peru's second vice-president, a Christian evangelist, who has taken refuge in the Argentine embassy here.

Officials have said they searched Señor Martínez Campos's house and found weapons and ammunition usually reserved for use by the police and armed forces.

The former president is to be charged with "illegal possession and use of firearms for the Aprista party", the interior ministry said, referring to the local name for Senator García's party.

He faced corruption charges after his five-year presidential term ended in 1990. The charges were dropped in January and he since has become an outspoken opposition leader.

He has been a staunch critic of President Fujimori's decision on April 5 to dissolve congress, suspend the constitution and order some opposition leaders to be held temporarily under house arrest. The former president so far has eluded house arrest, and has issued statements saying he would head a civilian resistance to President Fujimori's military-backed rule by decree.

Señor Fujimori has defended his own move, saying it was necessary for him to fight drug trafficking and clamp down on rebels.

50 die in Nairobi air crash

Nairobi: At least 50 people were killed yesterday when a Kenyan air force plane crashed in a Nairobi suburb and skidded on its belly into a block of flats where it exploded in a ball of fire, military sources said.

Lieutenant General Mohamed Mohamad, the army's Chief of Staff, said the Buffalo DHCS-5 left engine had cut out and the crew had attempted to make an emergency landing. "A total of 45 passengers and crew [were] on board... All on board are feared dead. Two residential flats next to the crash scene caught fire and some residents are feared to have been hurt," he added.

The crumpled tail section and torn portions of the wings were all that remained of the aircraft. (Reuters)

LA law change

Washington: Willis Williams, 48, has been appointed as the first black chief of the Los Angeles police department. He takes over a thoroughly demoralised force which has acquired a reputation for racism and brutality.

Fraud alleged

Paris: French authorities have launched fraud investigations into nine professional football clubs, including league leaders Olympique Marseille, owned by the controversial urban affairs minister, Bernard Tapie. (AFP)

Peril ignored

Kiev: Secret documents published in the Ukrainian newspaper *Pravda Ukrayiny* reveal that soldiers and workers who were ordered to clean up after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident had no protection against radiation. (AP)

Woman wins

Tokyo: In a landmark decision, a court ruled that sexual harassment of women in the workplace violates rights and ordered a male editor to pay £1,430 to a former female staff for saying she was promiscuous. (Reuters)

García charged on arms

FROM AFP
IN LIMA

ALAN García, the former Peruvian president who has been in hiding since his successor dissolved parliament and suspended the constitution 11 days ago, will be charged with illegal arms possession, the interior ministry has announced.

The prosecutor handling the case has been authorised to file similar charges against Agustín Martínez Campos, the former interior minister, who like Señor García is a member of the opposition American Popular Revolutionary Alliance.

But President Fujimori told Japanese reporters last Wednesday that "there is no arrest order for political opposition members", including Señor García and Carlos García y García.

He faced corruption charges after his five-year presidential term ended in 1990. The charges were dropped in January and he since has become an outspoken opposition leader.

He has been a staunch critic of President Fujimori's decision on April 5 to dissolve congress, suspend the constitution and order some opposition leaders to be held temporarily under house arrest. The former president so far has eluded house arrest, and has issued statements saying he would head a civilian resistance to President Fujimori's military-backed rule by decree.

Señor Fujimori has defended his own move, saying it was necessary for him to fight drug trafficking and clamp down on rebels.

Japan seeks role as Earth's defender

FROM JOANNA PITTMAN IN TOKYO

Long portrayed by foreign conservationists as an economic Attila the Hun, pillaging the world's rain forests and destroying marine life, Japan is now seeking a new role as a leader on the environment. As 160 nations prepare for June's Earth summit in Brazil, the Japanese are trying to cast themselves as progressives, and the rest of the developed world as luddites, on the key issues of slowing global warming and providing ecological help to developing countries.

This week Noboru Takeshita, the former Japanese prime minister, has been hosting a conference of current and former world leaders on environmental aid. A much trumpeted "Tokyo Declaration" is to be issued today proposing an environmental tax on developed nations and a diversion of military spending to an environmental protection fund of \$125 billion (£70 billion).

Taking Japan's traditional devotion to industrialisation, sceptics are questioning the extent of Japanese conviction. Bureaucratic bickering and political inertia are likely to block environmental initiatives at home, and the nation has a thin record to point to in leading the world over ecological issues.

One exception has been Japan's policy on capping

carbon dioxide emissions, a development that has been initiated and developed by industry in conjunction with the ministry of international trade and industry. Due to the increased energy efficiency of Japan's cars, the country's per capita carbon emission level is now half the American rate.

When making a cleaner engine coincides with cutting costs, environmental consciousness in Japan is easy. But when economic viability is threatened, the environment tends to lose out, largely because for lack of a proper environmental protection movement.

Japan is also ill-equipped to cope with the ecological issues that have emerged in recent years because, to its well-intentioned but politically impotent citizen-activist groups and to bureaucrats, "environment" usually means "anti-pollution", and a preoccupation with human health has meant a neglect of broader issues.

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Upwardly mobile: Bill Clinton, campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination during a brief stop in San Francisco, shakes hands with passers-by while riding a cable car up Powell Street yesterday. He also campaigned in Los Angeles

Zimbabwe reduced to 16 days' maize supply

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe plans modest celebrations of the 12th anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence this weekend as the country endures its worst ever food shortage after the failure of the annual rains.

An official of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party reported that at Chigorongwa village in the remote Zhombe area of the midlands, shocked neighbours offered their scanty food reserves to try to persuade a starving family not to eat their dog, which they had roasted. Dog meat is taboo. In other areas people are reportedly trying to fill their bellies with river silt and the ground up pods of babab (cream of tartar) trees, or wild grasses.

South African help is on the way, in the form of two trains a day from the port of Durban, each carrying 700 tonnes of maize, but Zimbabwe's 10 million people consume an estimated 4,000 tonnes a day. Only 16 days supply is thought to remain in silos.

Yesterday there were the customary scenes at supermarkets as housewives scrambled for limited supplies of maize meal, sugar, cooking oil and margarine. Money raised for independence celebrations will be diverted to relieve distress, officials have promised. Joshua Nkomo, the vice-president, has reportedly cancelled plans to address an independence rally in his home city, Bulawayo.

Mr Mugabe, 68, is due to deliver a 20-minute address to a rally at the Chinese-built national sports stadium outside Harare tomorrow, after the usual parades of troops and a fly past by Soviet-designed MiG 21 jet fighters. He is expected to launch a verbal counter attack on critics who blame him for failing to heed last year's famine warnings from the United Nations, the Southern African Development Co-operation food security committee, and from his 4,500 white commercial farmers.

Zimbabwe's once-mountainous maize stockpile was wiped out by an unrealistic pricing policy. It is thought that "disloyal" commercial farmers might make a convenient target upon which to divert popular discontent.

Darkness heralds Queen of Mean

Decorative lights illuminating the top of the Helmsley-managed Empire State building in New York were turned off on the orders of billionaire Harry Helmsley to mark his wife's first night behind bars.

Leona Helmsley, 71, arrived at a minimum-security prison by limousine and private jet, entering through the back gates to begin a four-year sentence for tax evasion. Mr Helmsley, 83, said that turning off the lights was a "symbolic gesture". He also ordered that the lights be switched off at Helmsley Building, which is covered in gold leaf, on New York's Park Avenue.

Manfred Wöerner, the secretary-general of Nato, should be back at work next month after recovering from intestinal surgery, a spokesman for the alliance said. Herr Wöerner, 57, had to cancel a trip to the United States to have the operation.

Tadao Ando, 50, the Japanese architect, is the first recipient of the Carlsberg Architectural funded by Carlsberg Breweries. He is to receive it from Queen Margrethe II on May 29. His works include the Rokko apartment block in Kobe, Japan, and the Chapel on the Water and Church of Light in Osaka.

A peace mission from former US president Jimmy Carter's International Negotiation Network arrived in the Liberian capital of Monrovia. The delegation included Lisbet Palme, the widow of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme, who was assassinated in 1986.



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FRANCE. IT'S A REVELATION

Born to go shopping

Charles Bremner on the woes of teenage consumers

late-20th-century America seems to be putting an end to the idea of childhood, and the present generation of teenage Americans is having a miserable time.

Quite simply, American children are being treated as adults from the age of 13, while their parents and society as a whole have taken to behaving like children. Youngsters are surely not being given peace to learn when a country drops the words boy and girl as damaging to self-esteem and insists they be called young men and women. (Even toddlers are called "kindergarten students" these days.) The "pre-adults" are then asked to contend with an adult generation which flaunts its emotional turmoil, whining endlessly not only in front of their offspring but throughout the media about their failings and troubles.

Perhaps this was an inevitable result of the affluence which came to America in the 1950s, bringing with it the teen culture and then the explosion of divorce, but youngsters in America are now exposed to extraordinary pressure to spend and consume, while at the same time being confronted with evils and ills unimaginable even to the rocking rebels of the sixties.

The average American high school, usually a red brick building in a comfortable suburb. The parking lot is packed with cars because all but the poor drive themselves to school after the age of 16 or 17. As for dress, teenagers rich and poor follow an extravagant fashion code worthy of a medieval court. Patrick Welsh, an English teacher in an ordinary Virginia school lamented the compulsive consumerism in *The Washington Post*, noting that 80 per cent of his pupils had television sets, telephones and stereo sets in their bedrooms, and that some had videos. A school counsellor said the way American parents now lavish wealth rather than discipline on the young is creating a generation of "teenage monsters".

In a glowing account of the new "13-going-on-21" generation, *Adweek* magazine recently observed teenagers in Kansas City and found them to be "chic, yet socially committed, conscientious yet upscale in their tastes, fun-loving yet environmentally-concerned and every bit as complicated as their parents". The feature was intended to help marketing people attract the \$60 billion per year spent by American school students, most of it in the regional shopping malls. These institutions, which multiplied in the late 1970s and 1980s, are the centre of life for millions of "mall rats", teenagers who rarely spend time elsewhere, and develop a condition known as "mall eyes". The average schoolgirl spends \$505 a year on cosmetics alone, and 93 per cent of teenage girls say shopping is their favourite pastime.

While children are busy fighting the consumer wars, they enjoy none of the protection from the uglier side of life afforded to earlier generations. Her Manhattan school gave my 15-year-old daughter one project for the Easter holidays: prepare a presentation on sexually transmitted diseases. AIDS education is essential, given that most American teenagers have sex before 17. Precociousness seems to have reached new levels with news this week of the criminal indictment of two seven-year-olds in Indianapolis for rape, and the trial in Washington state of a 10-year-old on charges that he raped five little girls.

Worry extends far beyond disease and the violence of inner-city schools where gun detectors have had to be installed at entrances. Thanks to the violence, both emotional and physical, of the popular culture, the cares of the world weigh on the shoulders of the current teenagers. The nuclear shadow may have been lifted, and America may enjoy a peace and prosperity unknown in human history, but the average teenager will tell you the world is close to destruction. My daughter and her friends lose sleep over everything from the threat to the environment to racism, issues which are endlessly debated in their classes, magazines and on TV.

Many parents believe things have gone too far and are campaigning for a restoration of childhood and an end to the overload of the information age. "Kids know too much too soon," says Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council. He and leaders of similar groups agree that the fault lies entirely with parents who have failed to impart a sense of security and values to their young.

Brussels must start returning powers taken from member states, Sir Leon Brittan tells Michael Binyon

Giving way at the centre

The French opposition is demanding a referendum. Germany's upper house threatens a veto unless the rights of the *Länder* are respected. Ireland is in the throes of a complicated wrangle over abortion. Almost everywhere — except in Britain — the treaty of Maastricht is in trouble. Ratification, taken for granted by European leaders as they toasted agreement four months ago, is suddenly sucking them into a vortex of doubt, debate and opposition.

Britain's senior commissioner in Brussels has, however, been watching those watching the turmoil on the continent with *Schadenfreude*: that they are deluding themselves. Maastricht will be ratified, Sir Leon Brittan said yesterday. Neither the Gaullist opposition nor the ruling socialist party in France wants the treaty to collapse. The same is true of Germany, he said: whatever the doubts about monetary union and the powers of the 16 states, no German wants to turn his back on Europe. The continental debate is an attempt to find an equilibrium, as John Major's government successfully managed before Maastricht.

Nor, Sir Leon adds, would a failure to ratify the treaty do anything but harm to Britain. It would stall all momentum in the Community. It would ruin the chances of completing the single market by the end of this year. It would scupper British plans for a rapid widening of EC membership. It would be "wholly contrary to British interests".

Sir Leon detects no tendency by the new Conservative government to gloat at the difficulties of European leaders in selling the treaty to their voters — although the same is not true of the press. He wants Britain to seize the unique opportunity a strong, new government, soon to hold the EC presidency, has to exercise positive influence. "This can be perfectly legitimately exercised in favour of a Europe that is internally non-interventionist and externally open to the outside world, accommodating to new members." He adds: "The opportunity to move in that direction is there for the asking." He cites the recent banking

directives, the crackdown on state aid, and the reinforcement of competition policy to show that Brussels is moving away from a Fortress Europe mentality. The Commission is no longer attempting to prop up failing European industries with huge subsidies instead industrial policy now focuses upon the training of individuals.

Sir Leon does not deny the cooling of enthusiasm on the continent for the Maastricht Treaty. He also sees the danger of pro-European policies, long entrenched in most states, being rejected by voters along with their governments. Ten years ago this could have hurt the Community. But now, he says, the idea of Europe has a life of its own, even after the collapse of the common commu-

nist enemy, and it will survive such changes at the polls.

With the lawyer's cautious enthusiasm which allowed him to play a vital role in tempering Conservative opposition to treaties on economic and political union, Sir Leon says Britain could take advantage of the shift in attitudes to push the Community into more open poli-

cies. To do so, however, it must demonstrate its commitment to Maastricht, show that it believes in the Community and that it wishes to be at its centre. "The question as always should not be how keen we are on the European Community, but what kind of European Community do we wish to be known about."

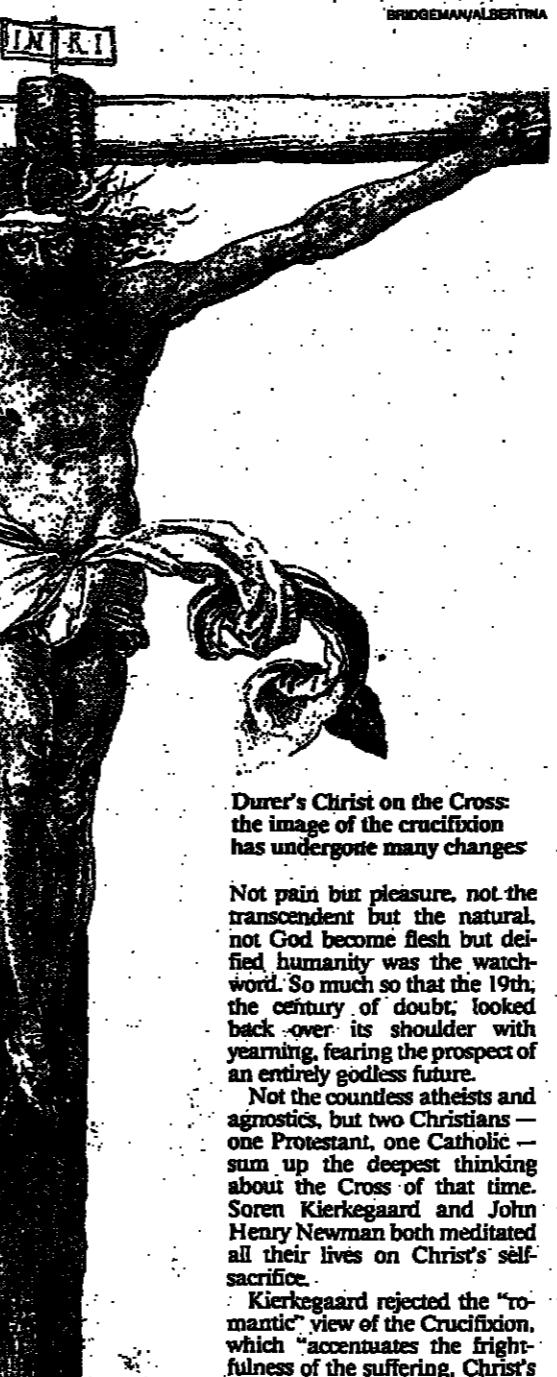
He sees a Europe now poised to develop in ways much closer to the British vision than many

people's prime anxiety about the Community: the ratchet effect, automatically drawing ever greater power to Brussels.

Commission competence, he says, should ebb and flow. Brussels must have a say now in economic and monetary union, whereas 15 years ago this would have been ridiculous. But on other matters it should show that it has the self-confidence to give back powers it has accumulated.

Sir Leon, who would have resigned had Labour won power, is likely to stay on in Brussels for at least two more years, and possibly for another term after that. Already he is regarded as the most influential commissioner after Jacques Delors. He is also likely to remain an influence in Downing Street, where his latest suggestion will find ready support.

Echoing the prime minister's own wish for harmony in Britain, he said yesterday: "I hope the new Europe will not need to feel so interventionist, and that the principle of subsidiarity will be given real effect. I hope the new Europe will be sufficiently at peace with itself not to feel that it does not exist unless it pokes its nose into everything."



BRIDGEWATER

Others who suffer do so for a higher purpose: only for Christ Himself, he thought, is suffering itself the purpose. The pseudo-religious of Wagner's *Parsifal*, with its sumptuous Good Friday music, shows the danger of pursuing this paradox too far: suffering for its own sake can become blasphemy.

Newman was less enamoured of paradox, but he was if anything more disturbed by the enormity of the Crucifixion. In a sermon preached on Good Friday some 150 years ago, he compared Christ's suffering to that of dumb animals and little children, whose defencelessness provides an analogy. "What if wicked men took and crucified a young child? What if they deliberately seized its poor little frame and stretched out its arms, nailed them to a cross bar of wood, drove a stake through its two feet, and fastened them to a beam, and so left it to die? It is almost too shocking to say: perhaps, you will actually say it is too shocking, and ought not to be said. O my brethren, you feel the horror of this, and yet you can bear to read of Christ's sufferings without horror."

How much less horror does Good Friday inspire today even in a century ago. Perhaps the intervening years have so much tried the capacity of mankind to feel horror and compassion that Newman's appeal is no longer sufficient. Yet if the events of Good Friday can seem less extraordinary, those of Easter must seem even more so.

Christ's Passion cannot be seen in isolation from His Resurrection. Christians who denote the Resurrection from the historical to the symbolic plane — who, in Kierkegaard's mocking phrase, consider Christianity "to a certain degree true" — are honour-bound to come to grips with Good Friday.

If Christ did not rise from the dead, what was His suffering for? If He was not God, why did God let Him suffer so? With its hideous pitilessness, the Crucifixion is powerful enough to unravel Christianity unless it is understood as the necessary prelude to Easter.

The face of innocent suffering

The horror and cruelty of Good Friday must continue to disturb Christians, says Daniel Johnson

On Palm Sunday this year, our young priest organised a Passion play for the little children of the parish. Up the altar steps they trooped: the small boy who played Jesus wore a white surplice to be scourged and crucified; the Evangelist, a little girl, told the story in a clear, bell-like voice. Good Friday lends itself to the stage.

Yet the thought crossed my mind during this touching spectacle that the child-actors could have no inkling of what it was that they were commemorating. Could not our priest be accused of exploiting their innocence for the edification of adults, not unlike an impresario who uses a child for ignoble purposes?

The story of Good Friday tells of mass hysteria and official callousness, of unimaginable cruelty and suffering, of a son who beseeches his omnipotent father for mercy but is left to die. Yet if it had not happened, the story would be an obscenity. Those who believe that it never happened, or at any rate not as the gospels tell it, are inclined to treat the story as a sadistic fantasy. Christians who take their faith seriously cannot but be troubled by Good Friday more than any other day in their calendar.

In art, in literature and in music, the Crucifixion has undergone many transformations; it is easy to forget that there was a time when Christ was practically never represented on the Cross. In late Roman and Byzantine art, which influenced Western Europe so profoundly until at least the 13th century, Christ was commonly shown as a king or judge, as ruler of the universe (*pantocrator*).

It is tempting to suppose that during the late Middle Ages, artists espoused the Crucifixion as a subject because the bubonic plague had evoked a morbid fascination with death. More important, though, must have been the individualism of the period. Man's rediscovery of his own humanity burgeoned into the cosmology and culture of the Renaissance, and collapsed into the civil war of Christendom we call the Reformation.

The crucified Saviour was the symbol of a Europe chastened by its own sinfulness, yet still inspired by celestial visions. Over the years from 1350 to 1700 falls the shadow of the Cross from Donatello to Tintoretto, from Grunewald's altarpiece of Isenheim at Colmar. Christ's death means the night of the soul. Bathed in a greenish lunar light, the emaciated and dislocated body of the Crucified looks over his distraught mother and Mary Magdalene, while the ghost of John the Baptist points grimly at the scene.

With Grunewald's altarpiece of Isenheim at Colmar, Christ's death means the night of the soul. Bathed in a greenish lunar light, the emaciated and dislocated body of the Crucified looks over his distraught mother and Mary Magdalene, while the ghost of John the Baptist points grimly at the scene.

Sublime as the image of the Crucifixion in Western art became during the millennium of faith, the 16th century, the age of reason, averted its gaze from the chorus for "mein Jesu" is to bury him.

The 12 bells, the oldest of which dates back to 1739, hang in St Leonard's Church in the parish of Shoreditch, and they are being replaced. Number ten in particular is in a sorry state, with an irreparably large crack. "It sounds horrible," says Alan Reagin, steeple-keeper at St Leonard's. The most badly damaged of the bells are to be recast, and an entirely new ring should be in place by the end of the year, pending the church's blessing.

The original bells are likely to end up in Toronto, or the Antipodes where they would join an equally famous ring, the bells of St Martin's, which are now calling the faithful to prayer in Perth. A suitable case for the new musical Andrew Lloyd Webber is threatening?

"Now I've grown rich," say the bells of Shoreditch.



Chinese whispers

THEY all wanted to know, but Chris Patten was not in the mood for answering questions about his future when he appeared at a Central Office party on Wednesday night before flying off to France to consider whether to move to Hong Kong.

Patten came to say-farewell to Angie Bray, his personal press

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Tired she was, and she wouldn't show it. Suffering she was, and hoped we didn't know it. But He who loved her knew, and, understanding all, Prescribed long rest, and gave the final call.

Who else could it be? You could hear her singing that first couplet, and anyone who knew anything about Marie Lloyd knew the significance of the second, because she died in the middle of her act at the Edmonton Empire, in the middle, indeed, of "One of the Ruins that Cromwell Knocked About a Bit". Furthermore, she died because she had been knocked about more than a bit by her swine of a third husband jockey Bernard Dillon, and (since, even with all that, irony remained unsatisfied) she died staggering as if drunk, but because the song required her to stagger as if drunk, the audience laughed and cheered while she terminally tottered. I do not know if He, understanding all, fixed it so that the last sound she heard was of an enraptured music hall, you would have to ask a believer, but there have been worse ways to go.

When the shower eased, I walked across to the cemetery office, and Cliff Green, who runs it, took down the book for 1922, and showed me an entry no less apt in its macabre comedy than the final call itself, in that Matilda Alice Victoria Dillon, known as Marie Lloyd, had been interred 12 ft down, for £52 2s 0d, and

that her mother Matilda Wood had been interred above her (9 ft) in 1931, and her father above her (7 ft) in 1940, and her sister above him (4 ft) in 1968, and just as I had seemed to hear her sing before, now I seemed to hear her sing again, and I knew that laugh, I had heard it countless times on the wheezy old 78 I replay whenever I need a little of what I fancy to do me good, and Mr Green said there was one more thing I might like to know, which is that both gates of Fortune Green Cemetery had been opened only once, and that was on October 12, 1922.

It was the biggest funeral they had ever had, and they had been compelled to close those same gates an hour before the burial, because all three local police stations couldn't provide enough constables to control the weeping mob, and it was no good drafting in volunteers because, as you know, you can't trust a special like the old-time coppers.

Marie Lloyd, however, despite the dilly-dallying of the cortège from her house in Woodstock Road as the result of so many wreaths being flung at the cars by grieving bystanders that the half-mile journey took almost an hour, did, at last, find her way home, and I rejoice that it's just a step across the road from mine. Tonight I shall put on "A Little of What You Fancy", turn up the volume, and open the windows for her to hear.

And if you remind me I'm not a believer. I shall, like Marie, just wink the other eye.

Bunny hunters all

JOHN MAJOR will enjoy his first full day of since the election today with his family in Huntingdon. Apart from a fleeting visit last weekend, it's the first time he has returned to his constituency since the election.

Norma has stocked up the larder for the occasion with her second expedition to the local Tesco supermarket since the election. Peter Brown, the Huntingdon Tory agent, says: "It will be nice to see John among us again. We are not planning any celebrations, although we hope we might see something of him." In truth, time will be short. After being reunited in Huntingdon with Norma and the children, James and Elizabeth, Major will tomorrow take them on to Chequers, where they are due to be joined by Norma's mother, known as Nan.

Nell Kinlock, who might have been expecting to spend his first weekend in Chequers, will pass the weekend pottering around the garden of his Ealing home. "He is having a rest," said one of his aides. "The family is not planning to go away."

Paddy Ashdown, who travelled more miles than any other leader on the campaign trail, is away from home yet again, with his wife Jane. They are relaxing at their cottage in France.

Many of the new ministers will take the opportunity to jet off to sunnier climes. David Mellor, the new Secretary of State for National Heritage — dubbed the minister of fun — was not, as one might expect, sampling the cultural delights of Britain. "He has gone off in pursuit of a warmer temperature," says his office.

The contenders for the Labour leadership were also planning one

last chance to relax. Bryan Gould is spending his Easter at home. "We thought we were going to be at Marmion Street with civil servants, but we hope we might see something of him." In truth, time will be short. After being reunited in Huntingdon with Norma and the children, James and Elizabeth, Major will tomorrow take them on to Chequers, where they are due to be joined by Norma's mother, known as Nan.

John Smith is also off to Scotland to spend the holiday climbing Scottish munros. He has so far climbed 78 of the 277, after setting himself a target of 100 by the general election. Having failed in that ambition, he has extended his deadline until the leadership election in July.

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The ministry of fun has acquired another nickname. It is now being referred to in Whitehall as the basard ministry. Broadcasting, Art, Sport, Television, Architecture, Recreation and Drama.

Appeal

FORGET CANALETTO. A far better known part of Britain's heritage is threatened with export. The bells of Shoreditch — the ones commemorated by generations of children in the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons" — may soon be on their way to Canada or Australia.

officer. Some 70 party workers were quaffing champagne when the chairman arrived with his wife, Lavender, and two of their three daughters, Laura and Alice. Perhaps Patten was lost for words in the presence of Norman Lamont, Michael Howard, Gillian Shephard, Richard Ryder and Michael Portillo, all safely returned to the Commons and the cabinet, but he came and went within half an hour, with a kiss for Bryan and a cheery wave.

Yet the affection which greeted him was born of more than sympathy. The same day the chairman had sent staff a letter congratulating them on their election effort. "The professionalism that you all showed played a significant part in enabling the party to achieve such a historic victory," he wrote. That wasn't the entire reason for the large grins, however. Patten had also generously agreed, in spite of the party's debts, to give everyone at Smith Square merit bonuses of up to 10 per cent of their annual salaries.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE is not, perhaps, the obvious place for an Easter break — but what if someone else pays for the petrol? That is just what Bill Paisley, general manager of the Copthorne Hotel on Tyneside is offering to do in an attempt to lure soft southerners to the land of Gatsby. Recession, depression and inner city decay are alien concepts to carefree Georgians living in the thriving city, says Paisley somewhat convincingly. "I want to remind recession hit southerners what a buoyant economy is like," he says. Paisley is offering Depressed of Tunbridge Wells or Suicidal of Streatham £50 to cover two tanks of petrol. And what if they prefer to let the bath take the strain? "OK. They can have the £50 towards the bath fare."

Such offers don't seem to be catching on, however. The contents of the hotel's bar are a perfect example. Sellafield, Cumbria, with a full house, has seen sales drop by 20 per cent. Such sales are down all over the country, with the exception of the north, where sales are up 10 per cent. The reason for this is that the north has more visitors than the south, and the visitors are more likely to buy. The contents of the hotel's bar are a perfect example. Sellafield, Cumbria, with a full house, has seen sales drop by 20 per cent. Such sales are down all over the country, with the exception of the north, where sales are up 10 per cent. The reason for this is that the north has more visitors than



LABOUR AND CLASS ENVY

Can Labour Win? and *Must Labour Lose?* were the titles of two bleak books published in 1960, after Labour had lost three elections in a row. Now the same questions are being asked after a run of four defeats. They should be exercised by the Labour party members, MPs and trade unionists who are entrusted with electing the right combination of leader and deputy leader in July.

Anthony Crosland's *Can Labour Win?* predicted a 2 per cent decline in Labour's vote at each election unless 'Labour can present itself as a progressive, national, social democratic party'. His prophecy would have given Labour a 28 per cent share of the vote in 1987, a target it hit one election early. *Must Labour Lose?* included a commentary by Rita Hinden concluding that crumbling class solidarity, the declining appeal of public ownership and divisions within the party made defeat inevitable.

Crosland was right only after 1983, when Labour started the long haul back towards becoming a modern social democratic party, did voters start to return. Its share rose to 31 per cent in 1987 and 35 per cent earlier this month, as it moved towards the centre ground. But Labour has not yet gone far enough towards becoming a progressive, national, classless party. A glance at the post-election map, with its blue swathe across the South and zones of red in the North and Scotland diminishes Labour's claim to represent equally all parts of the nation. And the party is still over-reliant on votes from the young and the public sector together with its traditional, dwindling, cloth-cap support.

Becoming a social democratic party rather than a party of 'labour' means shedding the class affiliations that pit one set of voters against another. It was her cross-class appeal that made Margaret Thatcher successful, and until Labour starts winning more votes from the lower middle classes and those who aspire to them, its base will be too small to deprive the Tories of victory.

In this lay the flaw in John Smith's pre-election shadow budget, which aimed to soak the 'rich' (for which read middle-class) and

to sprinkle the drops very thinly among all those who were either retired or had children. Given that the old were disproportionately inclined towards the Tories in this election, even the potential recipients of such largesse were not grateful. But, more importantly, what the election showed was that many people earning less than the critical £21,060 still disapproved of the proposed higher levels of taxation of larger incomes. To them, the policy looked spiteful.

Labour has failed to respond to the changing aspirations of the British. In the 1980s the Conservative achievement was to make those born working class feel comfortable about wanting to move up in society. Britain may not yet be as socially fluid as America, but the class system is no longer frozen in ice.

Labour's policies still seem to presuppose a socially static society, where deprivation and social injustice can be corrected only by redistribution organised by government. Thus has Labour inadvertently cast itself as an enemy of social mobility. Yet inequality will strike society as unfair, demanding government correction, only if those who suffer from it are its powerless victims with no other remedies available to them. This is why the equality that really matters today is equality of opportunity.

Hence Labour must at last abandon its central policy of redistribution by punitive progressive taxation. It need not worry that if it does so, there will be nothing left to fight over. Politicians will still debate the desirable balance between tax levels and public expenditure, and more radically, perhaps, the extent to which economic and fiscal policy should take into account the social and environmental consequences of market forces.

Whoever wins the Labour leadership election must prepare his party for the next general election by recognising that the world has changed. The politics of envy have lost their potency. Labour need not lose, but it has to find new friends all over the country, and across all social classes and income groups, before it can win.

FLIGHT FROM KABUL

The collapse of the government in Kabul and the reported flight of President Najibullah brings to an end yet another bloody chapter in Afghan history. It began with the violent overthrow of President Daoud in 1978 and his replacement by hardline communists.

Najibullah had hung on to power far longer than the Mujahidin or the West expected after the Soviet withdrawal. He tried various means — adding a Muslim suffix to his name, dropping government ministers, offering talks with guerrilla leaders — to distance himself from his communist past and bolster his shaky political base by representing the regime as a non-ideological force for stability.

The United Nations agreement that led to the Soviet pull-out did not end the Afghan war. Both Moscow and Washington continued to supply weapons, including sophisticated missiles, to their former allies. The fighting was almost as bloody as during the decade of Soviet intervention, with rockets fired randomly into civilian areas and continued government bombing raids. Gradually the insurgents closed in.

Last year's agreement by the Russians and Americans to cut off arms — a measure of Moscow's bankruptcy and Washington's disillusion with fundamentalist and anti-Western guerrillas — hastened the end. The Mujahidin had plenty of weapons and supplies brought in from Pakistan and Iran; President Najibullah was soon left without food, munitions or money. In a land where loyalty is largely determined by gold and guns, he had little hope of survival.

The UN agreement removed Afghanistan as an East-West obstacle. Tribal politics were no longer overlaid with ideological significance, and control of this rugged terrain, for centuries an ungovernable buffer zone that separated rival empires, no longer affected

the balance of power in Asia. Pakistan, which had been courted with generous aid by America for its strategic access to the Afghan rebels, was rapidly dropped by Washington. Finding itself yoked to the fundamentalist cause at the expense of links with the newly independent Central Asian states, it cut the flow of arms and distanced itself from the likes of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The war in Afghanistan faded from the world's attention.

The rapid collapse of Najibullah's forces has upset the UN plan to wind down the war gradually while preparing for an interim administration. The danger is that tribal rivalries will flare up as old scores are settled, and long suppressed rivalries fracture the Mujahidin's paper commitment to democracy. A bloodbath in Kabul would mock the increasingly fraught efforts by Benon Sevan, the special UN envoy, to install a transitional ruling council. It would also signal the end of Kabul as an effective administrative capital for the foreseeable future.

Afghanistan, if it can avoid the tribal anarchy of Somalia, is likely to revert to the kind of traditional society where there is no national authority but a series of locally negotiated pacts, no administrative structure but a patchwork of warlords and rival fiefdoms, all existing as they have for centuries against a background of continuing low-intensity warfare.

Outsiders will still try to meddle, and the variants of fundamentalist Islam will seek to promote their ideologies with the weapons still hidden in every village. But the conflicting ambitions of Iranians, Pakistanis, Tajiks, Uzbeks and other immediate neighbours will scarcely concern the wider world. Russia and the West, like the British Empire a century ago, have learnt the costs of playing the Great Game.

BOOT BUYERS BEWARE

On Sunday morning a million or so parents, full of fervour, will dress their children up for what has now become a traditional family activity: not going to church, but attending a car boot sale. Like a day at the races, this weekend pursuit combines the tantalising possibility of making money by selling junk or picking up a bargain, with fresh air, milling crowds and steaming hotdog vans.

As usual, when a spontaneous craze develops outside the scope of the authorities, killjoys move in to try to regulate its vitality. The Association of London Authorities is trying to have car boot sales licensed. Their growth has been debated in the House of Lords no less, with Lord Hailsham, in best fuddy-duddy tradition, admitting that he was not quite sure what a car boot sale was. Now the Consumers' Association is warning that buyers may face "a long slog" trying to enforce their legal rights under the Sale of Goods Act when they find their newly acquired second-hand television does not work.

Legal rights? At a car boot sale? Anyone who buys an electrical appliance from what is no more than a jumble sale on wheels is taking a gamble as risky as placing a bet on the Grand National. But the emperor is well aware of the caveats: if the £10 TV can pick up a channel, it is a fantastic bargain; if not, it was a worthwhile punt, and the buyer can probably sell it on for the same amount the following week.

Car boot sales are a perfect example of demand meeting supply. Sellers are reluctant to go home with a full boot, and will drop their prices until all their wares have gone. Such sales are thriving in the recession. People feeling impoverished can raise a little cash by selling the contents of their attic,

while others can buy second-hand goods for a snip. Around 10,000 sales take place on an average Sunday, drawing at least a million people — probably more on a double bank holiday weekend like the one ahead. The ideal weather conditions are cloudy but dry. Rain puts off the punters, while too much sun sends them off on a long walk or picnic.

Car boot sales are a relatively new phenomenon, imported from America where the yard or garage sale is an institution. Australians call them "trash-and-treasure" sales, and the quest for treasure is what draws in the trash. A few years ago, a late 18th-century hunting painting bought for £4 in the West Country sold later for £5,500.

Last year, four unpublished volumes of Sir Henry "Chips" Cannon's diaries were unearthed at a car boot sale and restored to his son, Paul.

The sales are also effective fundraisers for charity. Sellers have to pay a few pounds for the privilege of taking part, which can go towards church repairs or the maintenance of a village football pitch. And environmentalists can applaud an effective method of recycling.

Inevitably there are hazards. Some consignments of goods that have fallen off the back of a lorry may end up being sold from the back of a van. Burglars have been known to use car boot sales to offload the contents of other people's households. Professional dealers tend to arrive at dawn to snap up underpriced goods. But in Britain's black markets, as in those all over the world, the informality of the proceedings is what makes them all the more fun. Forget the Sale of Goods Act. They are to be enjoyed, but at your own peril.

My experience shows that a strong relationship is developing between schools and local companies throughout the country and there is a recognition that the word "engineer"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Police relent on logbooks 'to maintain public confidence'

From the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Sir, Bernard Levin makes a serious point about the effect on public confidence of this service's recent introduction of new-style surveillance logs (article, April 13).

He will, therefore, I hope, be pleased to learn that the main bone of contention, the plastic insert sheet, is to be abandoned immediately. Please, Mr Levin, no more accusations about our fear of electrostatic examination of such logs.

What Mr Levin failed to give us credit for was the rest of the system. All our surveillance log books now carry a unique number. Similarly, each page is uniquely numbered. On completion, it is signed by the officer making the notes and countersigned by his supervisor. Any alterations or

changes to the page must be noted and initialled at that time.

The much maligned plastic sheet also had a use which I am sure Mr Levin would have found acceptable. It was there to prevent anyone in one case from reading the surveillance notes from another which was completely unconnected. We will overcome this problem by using a new log book for every new case and the pages will remain in the book.

I do recognise the overwhelming importance of maintaining the high level of confidence we rightly enjoy from the public, and so, as we have said, the plastic sheet will go. Mr Levin may be assured that we pride ourselves on our ability to listen to criticism, consider it and, when justified, react to it.

I hope Mr Levin will give us credit for this. We do care what people say

offering the use of its ports for delivery of the very large quantities of maize and wheat which will be required before the next harvest. This will be at this time next year. This, however, helps resolve only part of the problem.

The country has suffered the worst drought for a century or more and the maize crop has virtually failed. While the plants have grown, they have died before producing any cobs.

In the past, Zimbabwe and South Africa have been exporters to Zambia, Mozambique and other countries in southern Africa. The effects of the drought, disastrous as they are for Zimbabwe, will be felt over a much wider field since all countries in the region have suffered in the same issue.

The High Commissioner points out the co-operation they need and are receiving from South Africa in

offering the use of its ports for delivery of the very large quantities of maize and wheat which will be required before the next harvest. This will be at this time next year. This, however, helps resolve only part of the problem.

The country has suffered the worst drought for a century or more and the maize crop has virtually failed. While the plants have grown, they have died before producing any cobs.

In my attempts at struggling against that demand, I have suggested to airlines that they are responsible for making me intensely suspicious, nearly visiting on me an acute case of paranoia: their being so uniformly keen to make certain that I am away from my home on a given Saturday always made me wonder what they were planning that I might be missing.

Cordially, LAURENCE URDANG, 4 St Mary's Row, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, April 10.

Yours faithfully, VERA CROFTS (née Bland), 1 Bowens Field, Wen, Shropshire, April 11.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT WILSON, The Old Sudeley Arms, 21 Hailes Street, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs Carola Behard

Sir, I voted Liberal Democrat in Cheltenham. This was a tactical vote.

I had to vote this way because I am so prejudiced against John Taylor: he is a Conservative.

Yours faithfully,

CAROLA BEHARD, 29 Burton Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Points of order

From Mr John Whitmore

Sir, In calling for a tolerant use of patronage your leader ("Not one of us", April 14) is praiseworthy. But appointments in the gift of government would hardly ever appear to be patronage at all if selection took place after open advertisement and objective job-related criteria for choosing were established.

We saw what I hope to be the beginnings of a healthy development when the post of Director of Public Prosecutions was advertised. An open society in which equal opportunity flourishes requires such a practice.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WHITMORE, 21 Portland Road, Leicester.

From Mr Douglas Verrall

Sir, I am glad that the headteachers of our schools are not changed as frequently as is the Secretary of State for Education.

Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS VERRALL, 3 Springfield Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

From Mr Basil Hoole

Sir, Is it too unkind to suggest that we ought to revert to the good old days when MPs bought their votes with their own money?

Yours faithfully,

BASIL HOOLE, Copper Coign, Priestlands, Sherborne, Dorset.

Christian concern at tax avoidance

From the Rector of Christ Church, Duns

Sir, I have been shocked by some of the ingenious forms of precautionary tax avoidance practised by City firms, for example the case you mentioned (report, April 4) of higher earners being given their entire year's salary to escape the consequences of a Labour government budget.

The underlying assumption seems to be that high earners have a right to avoid paying tax wherever possible, provided their behaviour is not illegal. And there seems to be a second assumption that loyalty is based exclusively on a cash nexus, sealed by cash in advance. Are we to assume that this means no tax-free cash up front, no loyalty?

On Sunday evenings our congregation has been examining the Ten Commandments and exploring their implications for Christian life today. We do not have many merchant bankers or advertising personnel in our congregation. But the dominant culture, of which tax-avoidance schemes are perhaps symptomatic, make a sombre backdrop for our reflections.

The Ten Commandments and Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount underline the fact that our love of God and our care for our neighbour, that is for other members of society, are inextricably linked. Where the Old Testament expresses the standards that God sets for his people in terms of a clear-cut moral and legal code the New Testament insists that we look behind the actions at the underlying motives. Thus, where the Sixth Commandment is a clear injunction against murder, Jesus insists (Matthew 5: 21-24) that malicious anger and similar negative emotions are equally culpable.

From the perspective of our Sunday evening reflections I find the reported forms of tax avoidance wholly unacceptable. They are a denial of love and concern for our neighbour. As a contribution to the well-being of our country the activities of the financial consultants seem to me highly questionable.

During the past decade or so our dominant culture seems to have legitimised private greed by re-labelling it "wealth creation". The election campaign showed a conspicuous lack of moral or ethical debate. I should be delighted if representatives of all political parties were willing to condemn such forms of tax avoidance and those financial consultants advocating them.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MARTIN,
The Rectory, Wellfield,
Duns, Berwickshire.
April 14.

However, extensive canvassing showed the race issue to be at best marginal, more than counterbalanced by a strong pro-Taylor vote from many non-Tory constituents.

Bearing in mind that we suffer a Lib Dem county council, a Labour borough council (24 to 8 Tories) and that they have targeted this seat assiduously since 1983, the Lib Dems should be asking why their majority was so meagre. Well done, John Taylor.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WILSON,
The Old Sudeley Arms,
21 Hailes Street, Winchcombe,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, Where is the evidence to corroborate the allegations that the defeat of John Taylor, the black Conservative candidate in Cheltenham, was brought about by racism?

Although Mr Taylor was only selected 16 months ago, his result was only 2,688 votes short of the record poll achieved in 1987 by the then sitting member, Sir Charles Irving, in a three-cornered fight. If only prudent allowance is made for the loss of Sir Charles's personal cross-party vote, the participation of three other candidates and the tactical switch of a significant number of Labour supporters, it will be seen that Mr Taylor's defeat was indeed a close-run thing.

It should also be noted that the swing from the Conservatives here of 5.21 per cent was less than in either nearby Gloucester (5.34) or Stroud (6.21) where incumbent MPs were standing, and only a little worse than Bath, where 4.95 per cent defeated a Cabinet minister.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
20 Ramillies Road, W4.

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Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS VERRALL



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 16: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Chester and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cheshire (Mr William Bromley-Davenport).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to Chester Cathedral where they were received by the Lord Bishop of Chester (the Right Reverend Michael Bassett) and the Dean of Chester (the very Reverend Doctor Stephen Smalley).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Maundy Service in Chester Cathedral at which Her Majesty distributed the Royal Maundy.

The Lord High Almoner (the Right Reverend John Taylor) and the Sub-Almoner (the Reverend William Booth) were present.

Afterwards, The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured the Lord Mayor of the City of Chester (Councillor Mrs Susan Proctor) with her presence at luncheon in the Town Hall and presented her with the Letters Patent conferring the title of Lord Mayor of Chester.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Brome, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of The President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 16: The Duke of Kent, Trustee, the Science Museum, this morning opened the new National Railway Museum in York, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt).

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning visited Chailey Heritage, Chailey, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson).

This afternoon, Her Royal Highness visited the Thomas Peacock School, Rye, and later visited Ryrie Heritage Centre and Friary Gardens, Winchelsea.

Mrs Peter Wilmet-Sirwell was in attendance.

Short sees victory slip from grasp

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, Britain's hope in the world chess championship semi-final, came frustratingly close to victory in the adjourned third game of his world qualifying title match in Linares, Spain, against the former world champion Anatoly Karpov.

Short had adjourned the game with what looked like an overwhelming advantage and in a marathon second session of play, which finished on Wednesday night, he extended his plus to a two-pawn lead.

Karpov's situation seemed hopeless but at this moment Short lost the thread of the game and instead of driving home his advantage he allowed the eel-like Karpov to slither out with half a point.

In the final position Short is a pawn ahead but the particular configuration of the pieces remaining on the board makes it impossible to advance his pawn to become a queen.

Recognising the futility of further attempts Short extended his hand and offered a draw. The score is now 2-1 in Karpov's favour.

In the second game of the concurrent semi-final in Linares between Aram Yusupov and the top Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, a draw was agreed in 46 moves, after Timman had missed a probable win. The score in that match is now 2-1 in favour of Yusupov.

Both matches have a prize fund of 300,000 Swiss francs and are for the best of ten games.

The moves for the third Short-Karpov game were as follows:

Karpov (white)
Short (black)

1 d4	d5	g4	Rc2	No6
2 c4	h5	Rd4	Kc2	Kc6
3 e4	Nf6	Nf5	Nd3	Kd6
4 e5	Nd5	Nf5	Nd5	Kd5
5 Bc4	Nf5	Nd5	Rc3	Kd5
6 Bc3	Nc6	Nc6	Nc6	Kd5
7 Nf3	Nc6	Nc6	Nc6	Kd5
8 Bc4	Nf5	Nf5	Kc5	Kd5
9 exd5	exd5	g5	Rd5	Nd4
10 Nc3	f5	Kf5	Kf5	Kd5
11 Bf2	Nd4	Nd4	Nd4	c4
12 Bc2	Bb6	b6	b6	b6
13 Ng2	Qd7	Qd7	Qd7	Qd7
14 e4	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
15 Re1	Rg5	Rg5	Rg5	Rg5
16 Qd2	Rg4	Rg4	Rg4	Rg4
17 Nf4	Nd4	Nd4	Nd4	Nd4
18 Bd4	g5	g5	g5	g5
19 Ba5	Be7	Be7	Be7	Be7
20 Rf1	Be5	Be5	Be5	Be5
21 dxe5	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5
22 Bd1	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5
23 Bf2	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5
24 Re2	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5	Qd5
25 Nf3	Nd5	Nd5	Nd5	Nd5
26 Ne4	b5	b5	b5	b5
27 Bc2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
28 Bc4	c5	c5	c5	c5
29 Nf3	Rd5	Rd5	Rd5	Rd5
30 Re2	Rd5	Rd5	Rd5	Rd5
31 Nf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
32 Nf3	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
33 Bc2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
34 Re2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
35 Nf3	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
36 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
37 Re2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
38 Nf3	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
39 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
40 Re2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
41 Re2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
42 Re2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
43 Re2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
44 Kg2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
45 Kg2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
46 Kg2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
47 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
48 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
49 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
50 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
51 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
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55 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
56 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
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59 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
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61 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
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67 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
68 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
69 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
70 Kf2	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7	Kf7
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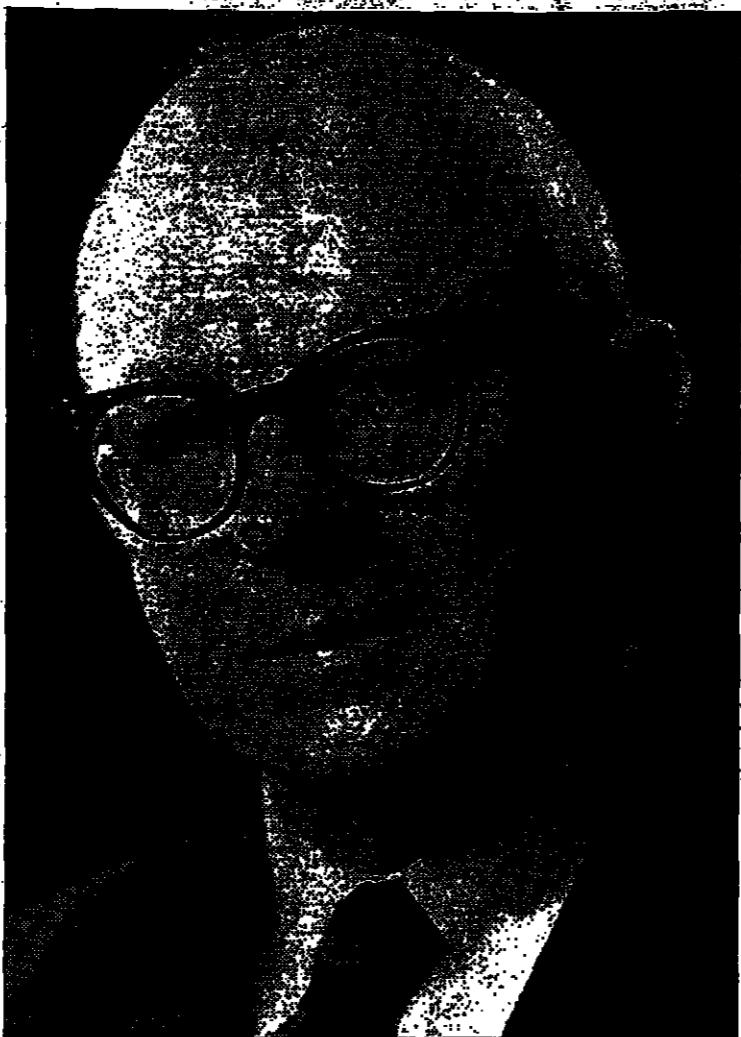
OBITUARIES

Professor Sir Clifford Darby, CBE, professor of geography in the University of Cambridge, 1966-77, died on April 14 aged 83. He was born at Resolven, Glamorgan, on February 7, 1909.

CLIFFORD Darby (H. C. Darby, as he was known through his writings) exercised a profound influence on the development and understanding of historical geography both in this country and the United States. He is most widely known for the magisterial work *The Domesday Geography of England* which appeared in seven volumes between 1952 and 1977. This *magnum opus* was largely conceived by Darby; he was its general editor and contributed very substantially to the work, whose first six volumes covered the country, region by region, and were summarised in a seventh. In this great enterprise he thus became one of that rare group of academics who have single-handedly established an active school of researchers, whose members were able to absorb and expand his original ideas.

This undertaking called for scholarship of the highest order and demonstrated Darby's capacity to marshal decisive evidence with candour and patience. But like all his achievements it rested on a strongly practical bent as a geographer, an ability to elaborate medieval geography using land surveys, and the capacity to reconstruct a vanished landscape from contemporary documents. These same qualities, incidentally, had enabled him to play an important role in wartime naval intelligence.

Henry Clifford Darby was educated at Neath County School and entered St Catharine's College, Cambridge, when he was only 16. This unusually early entry was more than justified by his subsequent career: he took first-class honours in both parts of the geographical tripos. After graduation Darby began research on the Fenland under Bernard Manning who had a great effect on his work. In 1929 he visited Southern Africa at the time of the meeting of the British Association in Cape Town, but more particularly at the suggestion of Isaiah Bowman, then director of the American Geographical Society, that he should undertake some work which led to



the publication of *Pioneer Problems in Rhodesia and Nyasaland* in 1932.

He had taken his PhD in 1931 and in that same year succeeded Manning as lecturer in historical geography at Cambridge. In the following year he was elected to the Erasmus fellowship at King's College, where he met Sir John Clapham, who had considerable influence on his academic outlook. Until the outbreak of war Darby was busy at research and teaching, and edited and contributed to *An Historical Geography of England before 1800* which appeared in 1936. *The Medieval Fenland*, and *The Draining of the Fens*, which both appeared in 1940, were distinguished by careful scholarship and

showed how fully Darby appreciated the geographical and historical aspects of a process which has steadily altered the character of this erstwhile "prodigious amphibious district" since the end of the middle ages.

In 1940 Darby was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps. There he directed a team whose aim was to produce a series of documents which would explain to practical navy men, whether captains of ships, midshipmen, in charge of boats or leaders of parties of marines, the nature of any coast they might be called upon to invade. This undertaking involved not merely describing physical features — capes, bays, beaches and creeks — but also explaining in a lucid manner, what

languages, industries and other economic characteristics the assaulting forces might have to cope with, once ashore. From 1941 to 1945 Darby was intimately associated with the publication of the Cambridge volumes of the Admiralty handbook which were prepared at the Scott Polar Research Institute. For his war work he was made OBE in 1946.

In 1945 Darby was appointed to the John Rankin chair of geography at Liverpool. There he revived and rehabilitated the department which had been evacuated during the war, and whose staff had been scattered. He gathered around him some very able young men, several of whom were later elected professors in other universities. He developed research activities and established a strong technical side — a development he extended considerably when he went to London in 1949.

At University College he succeeded C. B. Fawcett in the oldest chair of geography in this country. He strongly encouraged research and publication by his colleagues and pupils and he built up a large and distinguished department. He was active in establishing joint appointments with the School of Slavonic Studies and the Latin American Institute. During this time he made several visits to America and was visiting professor at Chicago, 1952; Harvard, 1959 and 1964-65; and Washington, 1963.

In 1956 he moved to the chair at Cambridge and resumed his association with King's College, where he was elected to a professorial fellowship and on his retirement in 1976 became an emeritus fellow. Unfortunately he arrived at Cambridge at a time of financial stringency and was only partially able to expand the developments in the scope and content of the trips which had already begun. What was even more frustrating was the severe limitation in the appointment of new staff.

It was also a time when, in all universities, staff-student relations were beginning to pose problems, with the hitherto acknowledged right of age and experience to lecture to callow youth being everywhere called into question. Geography in Cambridge and elsewhere was scarcely affected in this way, but Darby soon showed by his attitude and approachability that he was well able to talk effectively to the

occasional undergraduate in his department who was imbued with those fashionable doctrines which considered acquiring some acquaintance with the wisdom of ages to be an activity inferior to "spontaneous response" to one's immediate surroundings. Part of Darby's authority with the young in an informal manner lay in the fact that he was such an excellent communicator as a teacher and lecturer.

None of his university preoccupations checked — as they so often regrettably do, when creative scholars become embroiled in the minutiae of academic wrangling — a steady flow of publications, both as contributor and editor. His *A New Historical Geography of England* of 1973 appeared in a two-volume edition three years later and *The Changing Fenland* was published in 1983. Meanwhile older works of his continued to be popular: *The University Atlas* (edited with H. Fullard) of 1937 went through its 22nd edition in 1983, while *The Library Atlas* (also with H. Fullard), which had appeared in the same year, was in its 15th edition by 1981. These two editors collaborated again on *The New Cambridge Modern History Atlas* which was published in 1975 and immediately acknowledged as being unequalled in its field.

Darby's scholarship and practical ability were recognised in many ways: he was a member of the English Place Name Society and also of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments. From 1958 to 1963 he was a member of the National Parks Commission, and from 1964 to 1968 of the Water Resources Board. He was president of the Institute of British Geographers in 1961 and chairman of the British National Committee for Geography, 1973-78. America and the Netherlands honoured him and in 1957 he was made an honorary member of the Croatian Geographical Society. At home, he was also made an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society and, in addition to his numerous honorary degrees and fellowship of the British Academy, was created CBE in 1978 and knighted in 1988 for his services to the study of historical geography.

He married in 1941 Eva Constance Thompson. She and their two daughters survive him.

J. W. DEEGAN

Joseph William Deegan, a former inspector-general of the colonial police, died on April 14 aged 93. He was born on February 8, 1899.

WHEN "King Freddie", the Kabaka of Buganda, was deported from Uganda by the British in 1953, "Dee" Deegan was the commissioner of police who had to arrest him and escort him to the aircraft.

The moment was an embarrassing one for both men, who had formed a mutual liking and respect. They had first met a number of years earlier in England before "Freddie", after Sandhurst and the Grenadier Guards, had to interrupt his Cambridge University degree course on inheriting the throne of Buganda, the most powerful kingdom within the British colony.

Subsequent events had led the British government, however, to perceive the Kabaka's influence as a threat. To Deegan, now in charge of law and order, fell the responsibility of quelling any civil protest — especially with a visit by the Queen already scheduled as part of her post-coronation tour of the British Isles.

Uganda happily remained calm and Whitehall relented 18 months later and allowed the Kabaka to go back. One of the first calls he made on his return was to "Dee".

Deegan, to thank him for the courtesy and restraint with which his own deportation had been handled.

Neither man could then have foreseen the tragedy which was to befall Uganda. Four years after Uganda became independent in 1962, "King Freddie", now his country's honorary president, was deported again — this time by Milton Obote — later to die in lonely exile in Britain.

Deegan, too, was to suffer his share of disappointment. He had extensively modernised the Ugandan police force and later contributed a paper on his work to an Oxford research study on the administration of the old empire.

But he was to see his reforms largely swept away by his still more tyrannical successor, Idi Amin.

By this time, however, Deegan himself had long moved on. After 18 years in the Ugandan police, the last six of them as commissioner, he was brought back to London in 1956 as deputy inspector-general of the colonial police. He retired after five years, only to return in 1963 for two more years and eventually to serve as inspector-general himself in 1966-67.

He travelled the world in



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He travelled the world in his Colonial Office job, throughout the West Indies, Africa and Asia. He investigated corruption in the Caribbean and advised his political masters in Whitehall on the internal security of countries which were being considered for independence from Britain.

A quiet thoughtful Irishman, Deegan was educated at schools in his native Dublin and began work as a tea boy on *The Irish Times*. But his life changed in 1919 when he joined the army and while serving as a quartermaster-sergeant was seconded to the King's African Rifles in what was then Tanganyika.

Despite long gruelling foot safaris through the bush, he so fell in love with the country and its climate that when his tour of duty had come to an end he left the army rather than return to Britain and instead joined the Tanganyika police. He served in the force for 13 years from 1925 until 1938 when he moved to Entebbe in Uganda. He was awarded the Colonial Police Medal in 1942 and the King's Police Medal in 1950.

One reason why he was reluctant to return to this country in 1925 was perhaps that he had met his future wife, Nell, while in East Africa, where her father was working with the Imperial War Graves Commission. They married in 1926 and seven years ago celebrated their diamond wedding. He is survived by her and by their son and two daughters.

PROFESSOR ALAN WILLIAMS



Professor Alan Williams, FRS, biochemist, died from lung cancer at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, on April 9 aged 46. He was born in Australia on May 25, 1945.

ALAN Williams made three major contributions to his field of interest, the biochemical analysis of the molecules at the leucocyte cell surface. His recognition that the immunoglobulin domain was a biochemical structure whose expression was not confined to molecules involved in immunity led him to suggest the existence of the immunoglobulin superfamily. This prediction has been amply proven with more than 50 proteins on leucocytes being in this family and many others in different tissues.

Second was the characterisation of the first mammalian cell surface protein to be integrated into the membrane by a glycoprophospholipid anchor rather than through a hydrophobic protein sequence. This result paralleled similar findings in parasites by others.

Finally, when Cesar Milstein and George Kohler published the first papers on monoclonal antibodies, which later earned them the Nobel prize, Williams immediately recognised the potential of monoclonal antibodies as immunological tools, both for the identification of novel molecules and for their purification. He published a paper with Cesar Milstein and co-workers which described the characterisation of new molecules. One of these is the

and then moved to Adelaide where he worked for his PhD. On the completion of his thesis he and his wife Ros came to Oxford where he became a member of the biochemistry department headed by the late Professor Rodney Porter, FRS. In 1977 Williams was appointed director of the Medical Research Council Cellular Immunology Research Unit in succession to Professor (later Sir) James Gowans and he held this post until his death.

To his colleagues and students Williams was a real enthusiast for biochemical research and he brought many projects to fruition by his drive and energy. It was characteristic of him and an example of remarkable courage that he was actively engaged in the preparation of a major reference book on the biochemistry of molecules at the cell surface until the day before he died. He made no secret of his lung cancer and by facing it openly he made it easier for others to deal with the psychological aspects of his disease.

The standards of scientific

excellence that he set produced a cohort of postgraduates who were well founded in the pursuit of scientific knowledge. He showed much concern in their subsequent careers although few people knew what came into the references that he wrote. His own career in science brought him many friends for he was most generous in sharing the proceeds of his talent with others.

In recognition of these contributions national and international honours followed. He was made a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (1984), an honorary member of the American Society of Immunologists (1989), an honorary member of the Scandinavian Society of Immunology (1990) and a fellow of the Royal Society (1990). In addition he received an ad hominem professorship of immunology from Oxford University (1990). Late in 1991 he accepted an invitation to succeed Professor Henry Harris, FRS, as head of the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford, and was due to take up his position in October.

Alan Williams obtained his Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from the University of Melbourne in 1967

and then moved to Adelaide where he worked for his PhD. On the completion of his thesis he and his wife Ros came to Oxford where he became a member of the biochemistry department headed by the late Professor Rodney Porter, FRS. In 1977 Williams was appointed director of the Medical Research Council Cellular Immunology Research Unit in succession to Professor (later Sir) James Gowans and he held this post until his death.

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In the course of his tenure as director of statistics increasingly complicated changes in taxation came under consideration, with correspondingly increasing demands for statistical support. His later years at the Board of Inland Revenue saw the introduction of a capital gains tax and a complete restructuring of the company taxation system. He was made a CB in 1974.

The final stage of Paine's professional career saw him abandoning economic for social statistics when in 1972 he became the first professional statistician to occupy the post of Registrar General for England and Wales and director of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which was formed in 1970 by the merger of the General Register Office and the Government Statistical Service.

GEORGE PAINES' wide background in economic statistics, his great facility with figures, his general quick-wittedness and a certain combative nature were of great value in providing as reliable a stream of statistical advice as possible to successive chancellors of the exchequer and to the Board of Inland Revenue, where he was director of statistics from 1957 to 1972; he became a familiar figure in the official box in the House of Commons during budget debates.

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Workers use Easter break to clear City bomb damage

By LIN JENKINS

AN ARMY of builders, glaziers, scaffolders and road sweepers are working overtime during the holiday weekend in a race to clear up the devastation caused by last Friday's IRA bombing of the City of London.

Hundreds of ships are to be moved into the empty streets over Easter when broken glass in some of the 200 damaged buildings on the main traffic routes can at last be knocked out without risk to the public. Tons of paperwork that the wind has whipped from exposed desks, and which has choked the streets all week, can be cleared away.

Some of the roads around the most severely affected area, such as Bevis Marks, Leadenhall Street and Cannon Street, will be closed for a time to allow the clean-up to continue. A spokesman for the City of London said: "With the priority being put on getting the city back to work and causing the minimum disruption to the business community, the Easter break provides a brilliant opportunity to clear up. The key thing will be making safe the buildings in St Mary Axe, so that and part of Leadenhall Street can be reopened."

Reglasing of some buildings, including the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, begins today and is expected to take up to three months. District surveyors have already handed back most of the buildings to their owners, but have further work to carry out on the Chamber of Shipping and the Baltic Exchange which took the brunt of the blast. Parts of both buildings will be dismantled over the weekend.



Shattered landscape: police photographs taken after last Friday's bomb explosion show the devastation caused to the City of London

Dragged anchor severs cross-Channel cable

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MONARCH, a ship owned by British Telecom equipped to lay and repair telecommunications cables, was dispatched from Southampton yesterday after a key undersea cable carrying telephone and data communications to the Continent was severed late on Wednesday evening.

Some services to Europe and the rest of the world, including communications from City of London dealing rooms and reports from the Press Association news agency, were disrupted for more than eight hours. Engineers at Mercury Communications, one of the firms that uses the 80-mile Brighton to Dieppe cable, worked to repair the break.

A spokesman for BT said it had taken the same amount of time to restore fully their services, although he emphasised that no customers had noticed any difference as urgent customers had been dealt with first. A Mercury spokesman said services were fully restored at about 5am by feeding communications via UK-Netherlands 12, a fibre optic cable running from Aldeburgh, Suffolk, to Domburg.

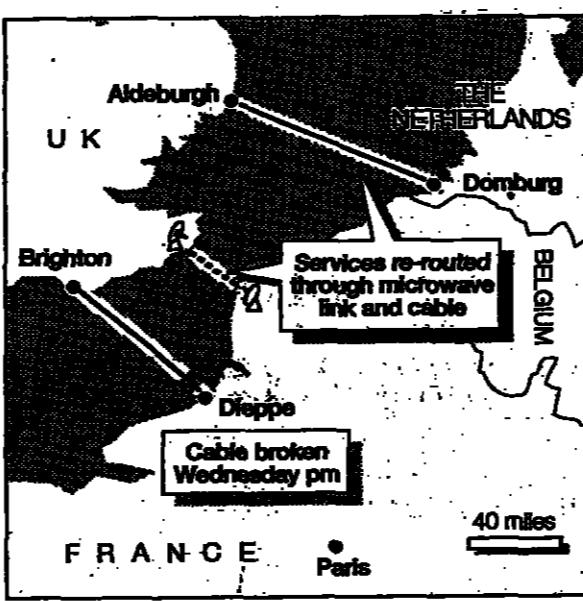
A microwave radio link, operated by BT between Tolsford Hill, Kent, and the French coast, has also been commandeered "in accordance with a pre-planned restoration programme".

Initially, rough seas were blamed for the break, which happened on the two-year-old UK-France 3 cable which is owned by Mercury, BT and

France Telecom. Later the cause had been pinpointed to an unarmed ship "dragging its anchor down the Channel" about 2.5 miles off Dieppe. This had damaged the cable, which is buried to a depth of around three feet.

Alastair Grieve, general manager of Mercury's international business group, emphasised that there had been no danger to marine life because, unlike transatlantic fibre optic cables, the cross-channel links operate at low voltages.

A spokesman for BT said yesterday that it hoped to have the link, which is able to carry up to 11,500 telephone calls simultaneously, repaired over the next few days, depending on the weather.



Broken link: most customers were unaware of it

Van holds up big getaway

Continued from page 1

with a minibus on the A40 on the outskirts of Haverfordwest, Dyfed. Police said four of five of the casualties were seriously injured. In Paignton, 16 pensioners were treated for minor injuries after their coach crashed on a hill. Long queues built up on either side of the Severn Bridge. AA Roadwatch said there was an eight-mile tail-back heading west and a five-mile queue eastbound. Further into Wales, another queue built up on the A55 as westbound holidaymakers ran into roadworks. There were more delays in Cheshire, where poor driving conditions contributed to a 11-mile tailback in each direction on the M6.

Instant sunshine, page 3

Kabul leader ousted as rebels surround city

Continued from page 1

own party. Now he would have to answer for his actions. He should be handed over to the appropriate authorities. It was a stunning outburst by Mr Wakil, whose apparent purpose was to demonstrate to the mujahidin — "our brothers" he called them — that the Wahabi party was ready to embrace its former enemies. He said power had shifted temporarily to the four moderate factions that had soon assumed military rule. "The council would assume all executive powers. It would be a group of non-controversial leaders, some of them out of politics."

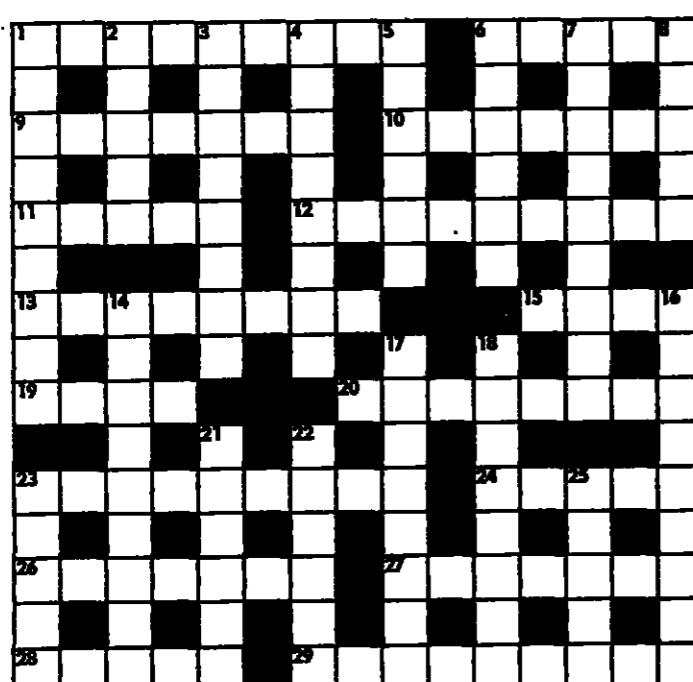
At Sevan, the UN envoy on Afghanistan, spent yesterday in emergency meetings in Kabul trying to put some kind of ruling structure in place. It is clear that army generals are playing a key role in the transition.

About 20 miles out of the city soldiers with tanks wait by the main highway leading to the north, while mujahidin and their unlikely allies — mutinous troops and militia — wait just over the hills. Fundamentalist mujahidin, who still appear determined to capture Kabul, say the UN peace plan is unacceptable and that they will fight on.

Mr Wakil said 45 generals and 17 other senior officers supported the UN plan. Several possibilities are now emerging. One is that some mujahidin groups and sections of the army will form an alliance to protect the capital from the fundamentalists.

End of the track, page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,895



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

RAFTY
a. Floating on water
b. Full of holes
c. Rancid or smelly

FAFFEL
a. Needles
b. A small state
c. An idle layabout

PLEONASTIC
a. Born later
b. Swimming
c. Reputations

TEMULENCE
a. Drowsiness
b. Timidity

c. Losing one's temper

Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C London (within N & S Circs) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-M23 733

M-ways/roads M25-M4 734

M25 London Orbital only 735

National

National motorways

West Country 736

Wales 738

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

Scotland 743

Northern Ireland 744

AA Roadwatch is charged at 50p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

at all other times.</

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY APRIL 17 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

17

TODAY IN BUSINESS CROSSED SWORDS



After an unexpected slanging match between the two key figures in Budapest, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is looking for a compromise

Page 21

BOILING POINT

Cecil Duckworth, chairman of Worcester Group, the domestic boiler maker, is recommending an offer from Bosch of Germany

Page 18

PAYOUT WARNING



Ibstock Johnsons, the brickmaker, says it will be forced to cut its next dividend unless markets improve

Tempus, page 20

TOMORROW

PROFILE



Colin Southgate, the independent Thorn EMI chairman who paid £560 million for the Virgin record label, says he is bossy but not a bully

HOLIDAY ADVICE

As the holiday season starts, Weekend Money advises on being properly insured and making the most of credit cards

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7479 (-0.0148)
German mark 2.9131 (-0.0053)
Exchange index 91.6 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (ppm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2059.2 (+6.2)
FT-SE 100 2638.6 (-1.6)
New York Dow Jones 3351.74 (-2.02)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17959.76 (+11.75)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.1%
3-month Interbank: 10.1%
3-month eligible bills: 9.1%
US: Prime Rate 6.5%
Federal Funds 3.7%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.65-3.63%
30-year bonds 100-100.1%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 1.7479 £ 1.7430
£ DM2.9128 \$ DM1.6685
\$ SWF2.6996 \$ SWF1.5436
\$ FF19.8457 \$ FF15.4377
\$ Yen 103.07 \$ Yen 103.90
\$ Index 91.6 \$ Index 95.51
ECU 0.703748 SDR 0.777192
\$ ECU 1.426983 \$ DR1.286683

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$326.80 pm \$336.70
close \$336.45-336.95 (£192.50-193.00)
New York: Comex \$337.05-337.55*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$18.85 bbl (£18.80)
Retail Prices: RPI: 136.7 March (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Lloyd's relieved as High Court rules drawdowns can go ahead

Names fail in bid to stop assets seizure

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

A HUGE collective sigh of relief was breathed by the Lloyd's insurance market yesterday with the news that a legal move by 800 names to prevent Lloyd's seizing their assets to pay claims had been blocked in the High Court.

The names, advised by Michael Freeman, a leading Lloyd's lawyer, now stand to lose "tens of millions of pounds" as drawdowns on their deposits begin after Easter. Mr Freeman said yesterday that there was now "nothing we can do to prevent that". However, the names are likely to proceed with a full claim for damages when the drawdowns have been made later in the year.

The judgment against the names by Mr Justice Saville was widely expected but nevertheless has been greeted enthusiastically in and around Lime Street. Paul Archard, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents Association, said: "If it had gone the other way, it would have been a very, very serious threat to Lloyd's but there was never really a prayer of its succeeding."

The judgment against the names in the action were in court to hear the judgment. One said the reaction had been "grim", with several of the names facing the loss of their homes when the drawdown procedure begins. One farmer who has lost £800,000 said he would be forced to sell his farm. The text of the judgment will not be available for about two weeks.

The judgment against the names is likely to trigger at least two new actions by names. The Gooda Walker Action Group, one of the most aggressive of the 11 active names groups, has pre-

pared an injunction, which it had been holding back while the Freeman action still stood a chance of success.

A new umbrella action group for names facing personal bankruptcy is also to be launched early next week. The Distressed Names LMX Spiral Action Group is provisionally headed by Andrew Grossman, an American lawyer, who is one of the leading players in the legal moves against Lloyd's in New York.

In a letter to be sent to thousands of names on the hardest hit syndicates, Mr Grossman said the group, which is advised by Withers, the law firm, would attempt to use a legal opinion from Gavin Lightman QC as the basis for an injunction. In the letter, Mr Grossman said it was known that "Mr Freeman's application based on technical objection stood little chance of success."

The only realistic possibility of obtaining an injunction, according to Mr Grossman, "is to base a claim either on criminal fraud or dishonesty". Mr Grossman has asked for £300 to join the new group.

Another group of names, those on the 1982 Orthwaite syndicate, who were left out of the £16 million settlement in February, also lumbered closer to the courts this week with a decision to issue a writ before the end of the week.

About 300 names, including many who work in the market, have given the go-ahead for a writ although they are still pressing for a solution to their claim that does not involve legal action.

Mr Coleridge is said to be examining proposals that will offer all names who have suffered heavy losses in recent years some relief through a levy on the market. However, he would face resistance from many in the market who believe that names must be made to meet their full responsibilities under their underwriting agreements.

The judge did not award Lloyd's costs, but has awarded the members' agents costs on standard terms.

The Freeman action was

defeated

Comment, page 21



Confident of outcome: David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's

Eagle offshoot sale raises £130m

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EAGLE Star, the troubled insurance subsidiary of BAT Industries, has strengthened its balance sheet with the £130 million sale of its Australian Eagle Insurance, its Australian subsidiary.

The group has split the business and sold the life assurance arm to Lend Lease Group, the Australian financial group, and the general insurance to QBE, an established Australian insurer.

Michael Heath, Eagle's marketing director, said the sale was part of a major reorganisation. The group is focusing on its business in Britain and continental Europe. "Australia has been a fair market for us, but not a strategic market, and this was sizeable enough as a disposal to have an impact on the balance sheet," he said.

Australian Eagle earned general insurance premiums of A\$150 million (£66 million) and life premiums of A\$187 million last year, and contributed £5 million to group profits.

Eagle is making a £5 million profit on the sale, which it plans to include in its second-quarter results, and will help to reduce the group's continuing losses. Eagle lost £394 million last year, up from a loss of £128 million in 1990, and is not forecast to return to profit until next year at the earliest.

Mr Heath said no other businesses were earmarked for disposal and that the group had decided to keep its businesses in South Africa and Hong Kong.

Insurance analysts welcomed the disposal because it will strengthen Eagle's reserves. The deal will increase the company's solvency margin, the measure of its claims paying ability, by 7 percentage points to 46 per cent.

Kevin Phillips, an insurance analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "I was concerned that Eagle Star was inadequately capitalised, but now it looks as though it would be the second strongest capitalised insurer in the sector if it was separately quoted." He refused to increase his profit forecast, however, because Eagle Star, like other insurers, will suffer a rush of claims from last Friday's bomb in the City.

National Power wins case

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE Office of Electricity Regulation (Offer), the power industry watchdog, has ruled National Power is not guilty of abusing its strong position in the electricity generation market by discriminating against London Electricity, one of the regional distributors.

London had alleged it had effectively been shut out of the potentially lucrative electricity contract supply market. London Electricity, one of the regional distributors.

Professor Littlechild said electricity suppliers offering low prices must make comparable offers to all similar customers. "This should discourage a supplier from adopting a predatory pricing policy designed to freeze out competition, without preventing price cutting which reflects genuinely lower costs," he said.

they would run their supply offshoots as separately financed companies.

National Power has given the undertakings, aimed at preventing anti-competitive cross-subsidies, London Electricity by its supply and generation businesses. A similar deal is being discussed with PowerGen.

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Premier optimistic despite decline

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ROLAND Shaw, the outspoken chairman of Premier Consolidated Oilfields, the oil independent, has again warmed to the theme of the iniquities of City valuation of exploration stocks.

In a letter to shareholders posted with the company's nine-month results, Mr Shaw said he believed "the market's disaffection with the oil industry and Premier has been vastly overdone". The market reaction had now "bottomed out" and the price would "slowly recover". However, Premier's share price continued to fall yesterday, losing 2p to close at 20p.

Early last year, the shares were changing hands at more than 50p and in August 1990, Kellworn Benson was left holding a 29.7 per cent stake after paying about 98p. It later sold at 78p.

Pre-tax profits for the nine months to end-December were £19.6 million, compared with £12.7 million for the 12 months to end-March 1991. The company has changed its year end to bring it in line with the industry's calendar year used for exploration budgets. The nine-month profit benefited by £2.4 million through a change in the accounting policy on amortisation of oil and gas assets.

The balance sheet at the year end showed £30 million of cash and £62 million of net debt. Cash flow during the period was £21 million. Mr Shaw said that Premier was "robust", even at lower oil prices. There is no dividend (nil) or bonus issues of shares.

Bosch makes an agreed bid for Worcester Group

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

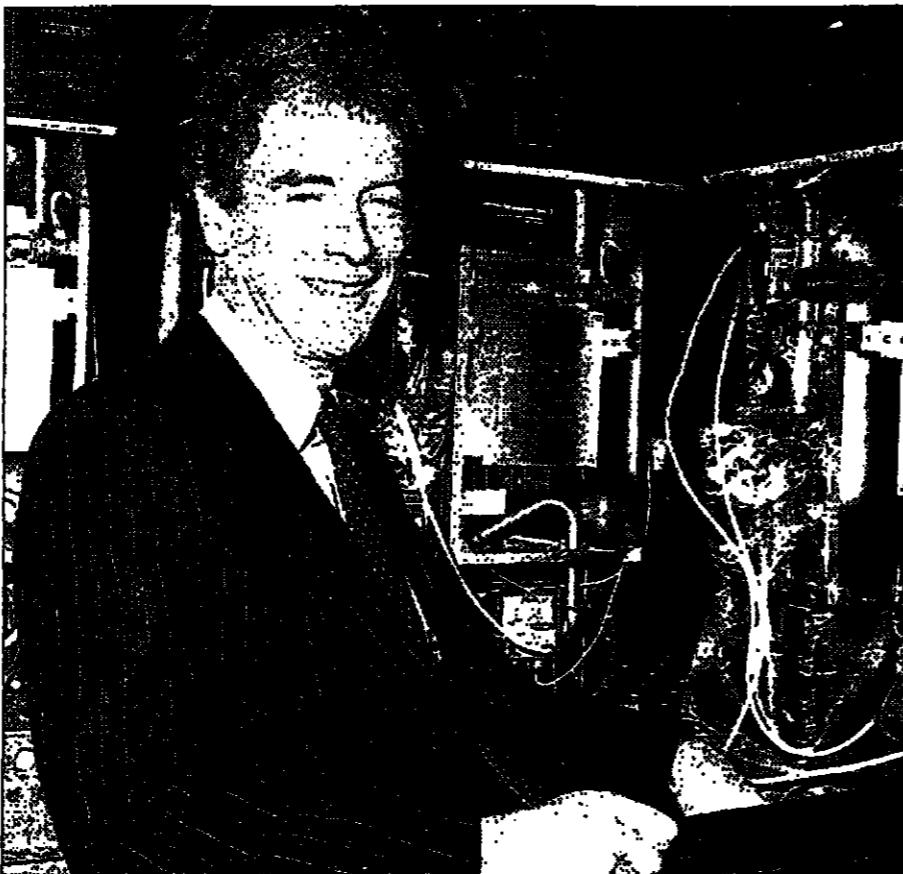
WOESTER Group, the quoted gas boiler maker, has agreed to a £71.8 million takeover bid from Robert Bosch, the German automotive and industrial company.

The combined sales of Worcester and Bosch's boiler division will represent Europe's second-largest company in this sector.

The Robert Bosch takeover is a direct response to the legislative changes that will result from the single European market next year, which is expected to harmonise technical and environmental standards for the heating appliances market. At present, European boiler makers find it difficult to sell abroad because of varying technical requirements and long approval processes.

Clemens Boersig, associate member of Bosch's management board, said: "The acquisition of Worcester will significantly enhance Bosch's presence in the UK gas heating and appliance market. Bosch and Worcester have complementary product ranges and Worcester will benefit in the medium term from wider opportunities in Europe as part of the Bosch group."

Both companies hope to benefit from exploiting their complimentary distribution networks throughout Europe. Cecil Duckworth, chairman and chief executive of Worcester, said that research and development spending is set to increase strongly over the next year. "There is a lot of technical change and the pace of development is hap-



Wired into Europe: Cecil Duckworth, the Worcester Group chairman

pening not only in terms of efficiency and but also from environmental point of view."

Worcester has three plants in Britain and one in Belgium. Its turnover in 1991 was £65.2 million. The boiler subsidiary of Robert Bosch, a privately owned company otherwise best-known for its

spark plugs, power tools and fuel injection systems, is Junkers, which has a DM800 million turnover and operates near Stuttgart.

Bosch is offering 225p for Worcester shares, representing a multiple of 21.6 times 1991 earnings per share.

Bosch has already received acceptance of shareholders

Albert Martin seeks £3.9m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ALBERT Martin Holdings, the clothing manufacturer, is calling on shareholders for £3.9 million of fresh funds through a one-for-three rights issue of 5.96 million new shares, at 70p a share. The proceeds from the issue will be used to fund current projects in the United Kingdom and overseas, to reduce borrowings and strengthen the group's capital base.

The Nottingham-based company, which supplies underwear and knitwear to Marks and Spencer, also unveiled a 16.4 per cent advance in pre-tax profit to £2.38 million in the year to end-December, despite difficult trading conditions. Turnover edged up 2 per cent to £80 million, with overseas turnover up 20 per cent to £16.9 million.

Michael Kidd, chief executive, said: "Looking to the future, I am confident that the board's strategy of expanding overseas while working to achieve an improvement in the return from United Kingdom operations will continue to be successful."

The final dividend is raised to 2.7p, against 2.6p last year, giving shareholders an increased total of 4.4p for the year, up from 4.2p previously.

There was an extraordinary charge of £1.22 million, relating to costs of the group's withdrawal from some United Kingdom activities.

Earnings climbed to 10p a share, against 9p a share last time. The shares closed 2p to 88p.

Hammerson bond issue raises £100m

HAMMERSOHN, Britain's third-biggest property company, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the fifth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

James Riddell, finance director, said: "This financing provides us with additional fixed-rate funds at an attractive rate, at the same time further lengthening the maturity of Hammerson's debt profile." The lead manager to the issue was NatWest Capital Markets and co-lead manager, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities. The issue follows corporate sterling bonds from P&O, John Lewis and BAA this week and from Cable & Wireless last week. Further issues are expected while foreign interest in sterling bonds remains strong.

Burns-Anderson dips

BURNS-ANDERSON, a recruitment and financial services group, made a pre-tax loss of £2.74 million in the year to December 31. That compares with a £1.97 million loss in the previous 15 months. Turnover, affected by disposals, fell to £64.7 million (£98 million). Costs of restructuring, disposals and rationalisation led to exceptional, administrative and extraordinary charges totalling £3.97 million. Interest costs were trimmed to £1.71 million, against £2.34 million last time. There is again no dividend.

Michael Kidd, chief executive, said: "Looking to the future, I am confident that the board's strategy of expanding overseas while working to achieve an improvement in the return from United Kingdom operations will continue to be successful."

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Bad debts dog Cradley

EXCEPTIONAL bad debt provisions of £435,000 held back first-half profits at Cradley, a lithographic printer. The pre-tax figure fell to £487,000 in the six months to December 31, against £710,000 last time. Sales declined by 5.2 per cent to £13.7 million, after fierce price-cutting. Earnings slipped to 1p a share, against 1.4p a share last time. As usual, there is no interim dividend. Cradley said the publishing sector remained flat. Bad and doubtful debts reflected the Maxwell debacle.

Michael Kidd, chief executive, said: "Looking to the future, I am confident that the board's strategy of expanding overseas while working to achieve an improvement in the return from United Kingdom operations will continue to be successful."

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Quicks' profit returns

QUICKS in Quicks Group, the motor distributor, jumped 22p to 90p as the group reported a swing back into pre-tax profit, up only £56,000, in 1991 from losses of £896,000 last time and a maintained dividend. Quicks is paying a 2p final making a 5p total, equivalent to the 1990 payment but half that paid in 1989. Norman Quick, the chairman, said that after stripping out losses from Trafford Vehicle Leasing, now closed, continuing businesses saw only a 4 per cent reduction in profits to £1.20 million.

Michael Kidd, chief executive, said: "Looking to the future, I am confident that the board's strategy of expanding overseas while working to achieve an improvement in the return from United Kingdom operations will continue to be successful."

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STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD

STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD, Edinburgh, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the sixth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

James Riddell, finance director, said: "This financing provides us with additional fixed-rate funds at an attractive rate, at the same time further lengthening the maturity of Standard Life's debt profile." The lead manager to the issue was NatWest Capital Markets and co-lead manager, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities. The issue follows corporate sterling bonds from P&O, John Lewis and BAA this week and from Cable & Wireless last week. Further issues are expected while foreign interest in sterling bonds remains strong.

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD, Edinburgh, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the seventh UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

James Riddell, finance director, said: "This financing provides us with additional fixed-rate funds at an attractive rate, at the same time further lengthening the maturity of Prosperity's debt profile." The lead manager to the issue was NatWest Capital Markets and co-lead manager, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities. The issue follows corporate sterling bonds from P&O, John Lewis and BAA this week and from Cable & Wireless last week. Further issues are expected while foreign interest in sterling bonds remains strong.

SUN ALLIANCE HOLDING CO LTD

SUN ALLIANCE HOLDING CO LTD, London, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the eighth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

James Riddell, finance director, said: "This financing provides us with additional fixed-rate funds at an attractive rate, at the same time further lengthening the maturity of Sun Alliance's debt profile." The lead manager to the issue was NatWest Capital Markets and co-lead manager, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities. The issue follows corporate sterling bonds from P&O, John Lewis and BAA this week and from Cable & Wireless last week. Further issues are expected while foreign interest in sterling bonds remains strong.

TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD

TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD, Chelmsford, Essex, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the ninth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

James Riddell, finance director, said: "This financing provides us with additional fixed-rate funds at an attractive rate, at the same time further lengthening the maturity of TSB's debt profile." The lead manager to the issue was NatWest Capital Markets and co-lead manager, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities. The issue follows corporate sterling bonds from P&O, John Lewis and BAA this week and from Cable & Wireless last week. Further issues are expected while foreign interest in sterling bonds remains strong.

SCOTSMAN INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD

SCOOTSMAN INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD, Edinburgh, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the tenth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

James Riddell, finance director, said: "This financing provides us with additional fixed-rate funds at an attractive rate, at the same time further lengthening the maturity of Scotsmans' debt profile." The lead manager to the issue was NatWest Capital Markets and co-lead manager, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities. The issue follows corporate sterling bonds from P&O, John Lewis and BAA this week and from Cable & Wireless last week. Further issues are expected while foreign interest in sterling bonds remains strong.

SCOTSMAN LIFE INVESTMENTS LTD

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SCOTSMAN AMERICAN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD

SCOOTSMAN AMERICAN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD, Edinburgh, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the twelfth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

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SCOTSMAN INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD

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SCOTSMAN LIFE INVESTMENTS LTD

SCOOTSMAN LIFE INVESTMENTS LTD, Edinburgh, has joined the rush to tap the buoyant post-election sterling bond market. It is the fourteenth UK company to issue since John Major was returned to power. The deal is a further £100 million tranche of an existing £100 million unsecured bond maturing in 2013. The bonds yield 11.25 per cent.

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TEMPUS

Hunting retreats from line of defence

HUNTING, the aviation and defence group, boasted after its June 1989 corporate reshuffle that it had become a *beta* rather than a *gamma* stock with a market capitalisation of £200 million.

Ken Miller, chief executive, points out that at that time the Berlin wall was still standing, east-west tension was still prickly, and defence interests contributed 25 per cent of Hunting's profits.

Now, market capitalisation is around £126 million, profits from oil and technology, and from aviation activities, push profits from defence interests into third place, and Hunting — after a 1991 exceptional £6.2 million charge — reports pre-tax profits of £21.1 million, down from £38.5 million.

Perhaps this year Hunting will deliver the long heralded better performance, though any real profits progress will come from oil and technology, which will have the advantage of having travelled from depressed levels.

Defence, though busy on the new products and markets fronts, and despite a current order book of £323 million, compared with 1991 sales of £162 million, may not make that much profits headway. Aviation profits cannot be expected to become much fatter until the recession has fully run its course, but oil and technology interests will benefit from loss elimination.

Meanwhile, shareholders' funds are down from £115 million to £108 million, gearing is now 58 per cent against 42 per cent, and after a maintained 10p a share dividend paid from net basic earnings of 10.2p a share,



New directions: Ken Miller has seen Hunting's defence interests decline since the Berlin wall came down

restoration of cover must be a priority.

Year-end profit hopes can more genuinely be measured once the interim report is handed. Meanwhile, the maintained 10p a share dividend gives the shares, at 170p, up 8p, a not unattractive yield of 8.5 per cent.

Lilley

BY ITS own admission, Lilley has adjusted late to the bleak conditions now prevailing in the property market. Doubts persist as to whether yesterday's parcel of Spanish partners, Cubiertas and Entrecañales, took a 21.5 per cent equity stake last summer, in the share price, which rose,

relapsed and closed at 30p. Unscrambling the various joint venture deals with London & Edinburgh Trust is evidently a healthy move, leaving the balance sheet cleaner and more flexible. While off-balance sheet gearing halves to 23 per cent, however, group borrowings emerge unchanged, at around £30 million.

Group gearing, therefore, is still 31 per cent. For a housing and construction group, the situation could be much worse, and indeed was. Before Lilley's Spanish partners, Cubiertas and Entrecañales, took a 21.5 per cent equity stake last summer,

debt matched equity almost pound for pound.

The £12 million exceptional written down on the p&l account has left Lilley with a pre-tax loss for the year of £5 million. This, however, together with inevitable problems experienced in housing and property development, disguises what appears to be a resilient performance in contracting.

Confidence based on a bigger construction order book than a year ago, and the Spaniards' underpinning of the share price — their 10p a share was a 10p premium at the time — persuaded the board to limit the dividend

cut. The payout was 2p against 2.5p.

Lilley has no significant overseas business to compensate for recession in the UK, but its specialisation in road, rail, water and hospital construction projects might enable it to recover faster than most. With luck, it will cover an unchanged dividend this year. A prospective p/e of 12 or so is not so demanding. The shares have medium-term possibilities.

Ibstock

If TARMAC claims to be the wounded lion of the building materials sector, Ibstock Johnson describes itself as

New York — The trend among blue chips in morning trading was mixed as dealers prepared for the three-day Easter weekend.

The Dow Jones industrial average stood at 3,354, just 0.24 of a point higher.

□ Tokyo — Prices closed

firmer after clawing back earlier losses. The Nikkei index rose 11.75 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 17,959.76. Turnover was about 350 million shares compared with 374 million on Wednesday. Tokyo is the only world market open on Good Friday. (Reuters)

Ibstock is, like the rest of the industry, complaining of testing times, with current overcapacity in Britain of, perhaps, 1.3 billion bricks a year. The British brick interests again contributed most of the profits, although slipping to £9.8 million from £22.3 million last time; margins fell from 27 to 15 per cent and prices by 12 per cent, but Ibstock slightly increased market share.

The American brick business improved sharply on last time, almost breaking even after 1990's losses of £4.96 million. The worst swing in percentage terms came from the Portuguese forest products operations, a commodities business with heavy vulnerability to pulp prices, where profits of £8.18 million last time turned round into losses of £1.38 million.

Ibstock held the dividend for 1991, as promised in the rights issue, despite pre-tax profits falling from £22.3 million to £10.6 million, but a cut this time looks inevitable. This would kick away the support of a 9.5 per cent historic yield.

Mark Stodkale, at Warburg, is looking for just £7.5 million for this year, a pessimistic view that puts the shares on 49 times' 1992 earnings. That kind of multiple can only be justified by imminent takeover, unlikely given the lack of players in Britain with the necessary muscle that would not run into monopolies problems. Sell.

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STOCK MARKET

KIO sells most of its Midland Bank stake

THE Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) finally sold the bulk of its holding in the Midland Bank, now a takeover target, on the open market after making several attempts.

The 60 million shares, or 7.7 per cent, were placed by Hoare Govett, the broker, with a number of institutions at 35p each, a discount of 47p on the all-paper offer of 403p from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. A large number of the shares are believed to have sold to American fund managers.

An attempt by Hoare to find a home for the shares failed after the institutions decided that the offer price of 362p did not contain a large enough discount to the terms. The KIO still holds 2.3 per cent stake of the Midland, which ended 2p cheaper at 362p as more than 121 million shares changed hands. It remains unclear why the KIO

has decided to sell its shares in the market rather than accept the terms from HSBC Holdings, the parent of the Hongkong Bank. One theory is that it was unhappy with the offer of new shares and bonds. Another is that the offer did not fit in with its stringent investment policies.

Either way, it looks as if the KIO has virtually ruled out a counter offer from Lloyds, down 9p at 393p. It remains to be seen if other the institutions will be willing to accept the terms from HSBC.

Meanwhile, investors made an early assault on the market's all-time high in the wake of another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street. However, this soon ran out of steam with the FT-SE 100 index squandering an early 33-point lead and coming within 6.2 points of its all-time peak. The FT-SE 100 index closed 1.6 points down

at 2,638.6. However, brokers were undaunted and described it as a creditable performance — prices have surged by more than 10 per cent since the election.

Investors appeared to be more than happy to take profits and square-up their positions before the Easter holi-

day. Profit-taking left government securities with losses of about 4% at the longer end.

ICI saw an early lead frittered away to finish the day 2p higher at 13.45 amid fears that Hanson will use the market's strength to dispose of its 2.8 per cent holding.

BAT Industries rose 9p to 176p despite a drop in full-year profits.

745p after announcing plans to sell its Eagle Star operation in Australia to QBE Insurance for £10 million.

A buy recommendation from Warburg Securities, the broker, lifted Tate & Lyle out of the doldrums with a rise of 16p to 42p. Tate has been the subject of a number of profit downgrades recently with analysts worried about its exposure to the world's commodity markets. However, there has now been a change of heart and it seems the City is happy with the group's international spread and expects it to benefit from the revival in America where a large part of its profit come from.

Reuters surged by 28p to £11.60 on learning that April 29 is the launch date for Dealing 2000/2, Reuters' computerised trading system for the foreign exchange markets. A profit slowdown at

MICHAEL CLARK

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

MAJOR INDICES

CONTRACTS

RECENT CHANGES

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

PRODUCTS (S/Market FOB)

RIGHTS ISSUES

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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RECENT CHANGES

COMMENT

Relief at last for Lloyd's

David Coleridge and his colleagues on the council of Lloyd's of London must be breathing a deep sigh of relief this Easter. So should those names who have any interest in the future of Lloyd's. The 800 who banded together under the banner of solicitor Michael Freeman, to stop Lloyd's calling for money to pay the losses of syndicates whose management is under dispute, feel greatly aggrieved. They feel they were being asked to find money they may not have, to pay liabilities that might eventually not fall on them, if systematic malpractice or negligence were found in some of the syndicates involved.

They were, however, playing a dangerous game. The possibility that names might, by extension, withhold cash calls of £200 million needed to cover claims, was a threat to the financial standing of Lloyd's and even more to its reputation as an insurer. Business is already suffering abroad. Lloyd's insistence that names involved should pay now and sue later may not be an edifying principle but it is essential to the integrity of the market.

Amid dreadful losses, Lloyd's underlying business of insurance has taken a back seat in the disputes between the various interest groups involved in the market. All the proposals and arguments over reform would be pointless, however, if the insurance business itself were badly hurt. The most immediate threat now appears to have been lifted. If that proves correct, the next landmark for the names involved in the seven worst excess of loss syndicates will be the inquiry headed by Sir David Walker. He needs to take a tough line on anything that he would consider malpractice in his role as chairman of the Securities and Investments Board. After that, litigation can be put in some perspective and Lloyd's can plan to rebuild confidence for the future by taking the big decisions over the status of names and the implications for the structure of the market.

Power fault

Regulation of utilities has given a perverse twist to what most people think competition is for. Big industrial users will have to pay more for their electricity than they would under free market forces in order to ensure fair competition and free entry to new suppliers. The latest ruling from Ofgem, the electricity supply regulator, is designed to bolster its principle of non-discriminatory pricing. On the face of it, outlawing offers of bulk electricity cheaper to one customer than to similar customers looks sensible. In practice, it stops deals with the likes of ICI at a lower bulk price than a generator's main sales to general distribution companies.

In policing a dispute between National Power, the biggest generator, and London Electricity, a privatised distributor, Ofgem ruled in favour of National Power on the case in point but has insisted on new structures to prevent such disputes arising in future. National Power will have to treat its direct sales to commercial customers as a business separate from generating, that must be free of cross-subsidy. It cannot therefore discriminate in price between sales to its captive supply company and outside supply companies, such as London Electricity. The privatised regime, which separates generation and supply, and will presumably extend that principle to generation by the distributors, therefore removes most of the natural market power of big users, putting them at a disadvantage against many foreign competitors. There is plenty of scope for subtle competition in energy packages tailored to individual customers. For big users, however, competition means higher bulk electricity prices.

Wolfgang Münchau
detects a possible
compromise in the row
over Jacques Attali's
plans to help reform
east European industry

This week's first annual conference of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Budapest was supposed to be an ordinary working meeting. It turned into a public slanging match between Jacques Attali, the bank's ambitious president, and Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury secretary, who quickly established himself as its most outspoken shareholder.

The unexpected public sparring between these two insiders was itself only a shadow of the conversations that went on in private. These were described as frank and fruitful, and anybody familiar with the language of diplomacy would guess what took place at Budapest was nothing less than a blazing row.

The dispute was about a proposal by M. Attali to allow the European Bank to widen its responsibilities, by allowing it to grant generous low-interest loans or place high-risk capital into projects that would have no hope of attracting commercial finance. The creation of a Special Restructuring Facility would be a significant departure from present policy, under which the European Bank is allowed to make funds available only on commercial terms. It strikes at the heart of the controversy on economic reform.

Several eastern European privatisation agencies, such as Germany's Treuhand, have already had to face up to this very issue: that many companies and industries cannot be privatised in the short term. The question is whether these industries should be left to perish. The industries in question are steel, shipbuilding, energy and defence manufacturing. Together, they represent a large part of total economic activity. Russia's defence industry alone, for instance, employs 12 million. Some industries, such as power generation, cannot realistically be closed without replacement.

M. Brady is no friend of such an approach and wants the European Bank to focus on privatisation. His message to the bank was to concentrate on selling assets, because the only hope for successful transition to a market economy lies in the development of a healthy private sector.

What is unsaleable simply has to go, and the faster the better. Others, including Britain, have taken a similar view, although not nearly as vociferously.

In the end, M. Attali failed to get approval for the facility, but obtained a mandate to investigate its feasibility. On the face of it, this is a typically diplomatic fudge — in case of disagreement, postpone a decision and set up a committee. But M. Attali may draw some comfort. There are signs that that such a soft finance facility might be allowed after all, if not on anything like the scale he envisaged, and only with some financial ingenuity.

The man who looked like emerging as peacemaker in this row was Theo Waigel, Germany's arch-conservative finance minister. Herr Waigel has this week taken over as chairman of bank's governing board, yet he is an unusual ally to M. Attali. Germany may have supported the bank in public, but officials had never really warmed to the idea of a London-based institution, run by a Frenchman with an American deputy. Reforming the East is an area where the Germans regard themselves as the ultimate experts.

Herr Waigel's domestic difficulties might yet play into M. Attali's hands. Germany is the largest donor to the CIS countries, but its domestic budgetary constraints make any further unilateral assistance virtually impossible. For Herr Waigel, the European Bank is a way to share the burden. At the same time, Germany has a profound interest in a peaceful political and economic reform in

Tanks into tractors: reforming Russia's defence industry could serve the West's strategic aims

sion and set up a committee. But M. Attali may draw some comfort. There are signs that that such a soft finance facility might be allowed after all, if not on anything like the scale he envisaged, and only with some financial ingenuity.

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eastern Europe, more so than anywhere else, because its industry stands most to gain from progress in what it considers its own backyard.

Germany also stands to lose most if the reform process falters. Its existing investments would turn sour and the country could be swamped with immigrants, most of German ethnic origin. Herr Waigel's ministry is also in charge of the Treuhand privatisation agency and aware of the limitations and political pitfalls of the fast-track privatisation process Mr. Brady proposed in Budapest, in a speech written at a safe distance from eastern Europe and its nuclear powder kegs.

In Budapest, Herr Waigel outlined the contours of a compromise. He suggested that a restructuring facility could be set up for special and tightly defined purposes, such as the revamping of eastern Europe's dangerous nuclear power stations, 16 of which are considered acutely dangerous. Herr Waigel's stance may not be unconnected with the prospect that a German company, Siemens' power-generation arm, could be the largest beneficiary. Germans would also be

among those most at risk from a nuclear accident.

Others may have different priorities. Some would like to see restructuring programmes not for special sectors, but for the poorest countries, such as Albania. Political support for a reconstruction facility would in any case not extend to all the sectors in trouble. These include industries, notably steel and shipbuilding, in which western Europe faces its own difficulties. The conversion or orderly dismantling of Russia's defence industry, and especially some of the tanks-into-tractor schemes, would be most expensive, but could be a desirable western defence objective.

No single international institution can achieve the task of restructuring by itself, even though the word "reconstruction" might form part of its official name. Herr Waigel's point is that some sectors may be worthy of special non-commercial forms of finance, if this was merited on grounds of western interests.

The American administration is not likely to change its mind on this subject but might not be able to block such moves if the others want to go ahead. With 10 per cent of the European Bank's equity, Washington

is the largest shareholder, but the decision to set up a facility would only require a two-thirds majority.

Nor would America necessarily need to contribute to such a facility. Under its founding statute, the European Bank can set up special funds, whose relative contributions do not have to match the shareholdings of its members. Such a fund could be based on a similar capital structure to that of the bank, but on a smaller scale. Some capital would come in the form of government guarantees, some in cash.

On the back of these guarantees, the subsidiary fund could borrow from the money markets, while the size of the subscribed cash element would determine the discount at which loans can be passed on to eastern Europe: the more state cash, the softer the loan. This would be only one of several options, the main point being to ensure that such a facility would not interfere with the bank's main operations.

Even if the European Bank did spawn its own soft finance arm, it would not miraculously solve eastern Europe's reconstruction problems. The countries of eastern Europe will have to carry the main responsibility for restructuring themselves, which means they have to get rid of surplus capacity and tolerate, in the short term, a rise in unemployment.

The chief criticism of M. Attali is over his clumsy handling of the affair. America complained it had not been properly consulted before the meeting and had only received a sketchy outline of the proposals. Even a sympathetic Mr. Brady would not have been impressed.

The underlying issue of what to do with eastern Europe's 60 Chernobyl-type nuclear reactors has therefore not been resolved.

Much time was devoted at Budapest to the vexed issue of whether restructuring can best be achieved through privatisation, whether restructuring may be a precondition to privatisation, or whether restructuring may be allowed to go ahead even if there are no immediate prospects for privatisation. There is no simple answer to this question either. Most industries are best suited to the privatisation-first approach, but some may not be. That is where the controversy begins.

The inevitable question is whether the European Bank, still in its infancy, is the best institution to deal with this complicated matter. The task of reconstruction may be part of its statutory responsibilities, but there remains the acute danger that the bank's ambitions might turn out to be greater than its capabilities. Promoting the private sector in the infrastructure of industry is alone a gigantic endeavour.

The lack of precedent for the kind of reforms under way in eastern Europe and the stark difference in ideology among western nations, let alone the objects of the bank's attentions, will ensure this week's dispute in Budapest will not be the last.

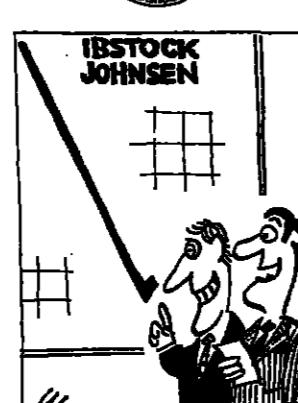
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sotheby's names its price

IT HAS long been said that Christies were gentlemen, pretending to be auctioneers, while Sotheby's were auctioneers, pretending to be gentlemen. Now Sotheby's has abandoned any such pretence. Beleaguered Lloyd's names, who dread the post these days, will, by next week, have received a letter from Sotheby's offering to sell works of art on their behalf, so they can meet cash calls. The missive is being criticised as opportunistic, not least because its offer of free valuations plus an advance on estimated sale price is no different to Sotheby's usual terms. In fact the advance offered in this instance, 35 per cent, is, if anything, conservative. According to industry sources, vendors are often paid up to 50 per cent in advance. Sotheby's director Simon Taylor, head of 18th century paintings, says, there has already been a huge response to the letter and names have not been offended. "Of course we weighed up the pros and cons of sending the letter but we thought we could tell names about our services in a sensitive way," he says. Part of that "sensitive" approach is a list of specialist contacts at the bottom of the letter, including Taylor. "We all have direct experience of people who have been through hard times," he says. The shoulder to cry on is, presumably, free of charge.

Kornered market

IF THE world of headhunting sometimes seems like a merry-go-round, the recent activities of two of the UK's top headhunters, Ed Kelly and Paul Buchanan-Barrow, will do nothing to dispel that impression. First, Buchanan-Barrow, managing director of Goddard Kay Rogers, tried to headhunt Kelly, chief executive of Korn/Ferry International, but was unsuccessful. Then Kelly decided to turn



"Chap bought a brick to put in his cistern."

Wonder of Woolies

PETER HARDY, one of the key figures behind the 1982 Pattemore buyout of Woolworths, is joining the Kingfisher board as a non-executive director. The appointment coincides with his retirement in June at the age of 53, as head of Warburg's investment bank. Hardy, who was at that time a leading property broker at Rowe & Pitman, before its 1986 merger with Warburg, was utilised by the Woolworths buyout team because of his property expertise and was one of the few in the City who had faith in the £300 million venture — faith enough to buy shares himself. "It was the deal of the century," he says. "Even if we couldn't turn it round, I knew we'd still have had one of the greatest property portfolios at a fraction of its asset value." With Kingfisher now capitalised at £2.6 billion, his judgment has been vindicated, and his shares — "a couple of thousand pounds worth" — half of which he still holds, are worth 15 times what he paid. Hardy's eye for the property market has made him highly attractive to other long-standing clients — including Land Securities — equally keen to sign him up as a non-executive director.

CAROL LEONARD

Remnant has nurtured a secret desire to visit Madagascar ever since his father was posted there 20 years ago with the RAF and brought back a relief map of the island. Now he is taking a month off work to cycle from one end of the island to the other, a total of 1,400 miles. Casket, the bike company, is providing him with a mountain bike and after the deduction of £2,400 in costs, Cooke still hopes to raise more than £5,000 for Madagascar, a charity that endeavours to save rain forests.

Casket case

FIND the right charity and you can travel the world. Julian Cooke, 28, an investment manager at Touche

IoD opposes 'golden parachutes'

From the Director of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Directors

Sir, In response to the invitation from your correspondent, Mr R. S. Fraser (Business letters, April 15) to set out the IoD's position on termination payments to directors, we entirely agree with his view that failure merits no "golden goodbyes".

Of course directors are entitled to compensation for the balance of their contracts, but this should not mean that poor performance is rewarded with large termination payments.

The key here is acceptance of the principle that no direc-

tor should write his own contract. This should be done by a committee of the board, having a majority of non-executive directors, who should ensure that its terms are reasonable. In particular, they should set to it that the length of the contract is not such as to give rise to large claims for compensation in the event of termination.

In this connection, we would regard any contact of more than three years' duration as being excessive.

Yours faithfully,
BLENTHYN JENKINS,
Director of Corporate Affairs,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Cost to UK of a minimum wage policy

From the director-general, Confederation of British Industry

Sir, Wolfgang Münchau writes (Britain bargains too hard for the minimal effect of minimum wage, April 7) "as long as it is intelligently applied, a minimum wage regime does not great harm". If that were true, it would still be a telling argument for not proceeding. But it is not true, as the British Hospitality Association Survey (Letters April 9) has demonstrated. Comparisons with the United States ignore the fact that in the world's leading economy, minimum wages are set typically closer to \$3.40 than £3.40. Comparisons with France fail to consider how effectively the SMIC is applied. Our estimate indicates that a loss of 150,000 jobs would flow directly almost certainly underestimates the likely impact. Yours faithfully,

SIR JOHN BANHAM,
Director-general, CBI,
Centre Point,
New Oxford Street, WC1.

Election winner

From Mrs V. Blaxter.

Sir, Mr Bob Tyrrell, about whom you wrote in your Business Profile for Saturday, January 11, deserved much praise for both his accurate forecast for the date of the election and for the correct result.

Yours faithfully,
V. BLAXTER,
Denis Lodge,
Barclayne,
Oban, Argyll.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 23).

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Mon
1 +6 +6 +5 +4						
2 +8 +9 +8 +6						
3 +6 +8 +8 +6						
4 +5 +6 +5 +5						
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Small businesses and the ending of CFCs

By BRIAN COLLETT

CONCERN for small businesses is a key reason why Imperial Chemical Industries, one of Britain's largest companies, wants a national council for accelerating the phasing out of the production and use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). It is anxious to warn small businesses about the implications of the change ICI hopes to set up the widely-based council this summer.

Mr Harris, ICI's regulatory affairs manager for fluorocarbons, says: "The users will have the problem. In number, they are dominated by small businesses, though not in volume."

The alternatives are expected initially to cost ten times as much as CFCs and eventually three or four times as much. Mr Harris says: "I cannot conceive that they will ever be as cheap as CFCs."

In addition, the equipment currently using CFCs, particularly in the cleaning, fire protection and refrigeration industries, will probably have to be converted to operate with the alternatives.

Mr Harris says: "We want to get the message out. The man with the van and two employees, who installs and services refrigeration units, will be affected. He has got to know there is a problem with CFCs. About a third of operators do not know there is a problem. He has got to know there are alternatives and he has got to

"If you're surviving then every Friday is good!"

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Growing a profit in conservatories

By DELLA MASON

LISA Rawley is a horticulturist, specialising in rare, exotic plants. Her business, Fleur de Lys, which is based in Kent, is thriving because of the boom in the past few years for adding a modern conservatory to homes. What is good for her business is a widespread lack of knowledge about what to grow in a conservatory.

Miss Rawley said: "Most modern conservatories are arid places, with little humidity or shading. People were buying house plants and expecting them to flourish in these hot and dry conditions. In fact, the rate of failure and of loss was dramatic."

She started her business in the summer of 1990 on a shoestring at her home, Kempsdale House, Hemhill, near Faversham. After training at Writtle Agricultural College, Essex, she had worked as a horticultural consultant in the strawberry and soft fruits market for about three years. It was then that she decided to use her knowledge to exploit the market for exotic plants.

New customers are offered a free introduction service. This includes a visit by Miss Rawley to advise on the right mix for a particular conservatory while meeting the customer's own tastes and preferences. Subsequently, customers can, without charge, ring for advice they might need on any feed-

ing or other problems that might emerge. There is a fee if Miss Rawley is subsequently called in to give plants a regular check-up, with pruning and other servicing. She looks not only to transforming any conservatory into a beautiful place, but also to its producing some economic return.

The Rawley touch can bring crops of fruits like lemons, oranges, olives, figs and grapes as well as flowers the year round. Miss Rawley believes that many people do not realise how many possibilities there are for growing plants in a conservatory.

To make plants more easily manageable she keeps them in large pots. A lemon tree already fruiting would cost about £165. The prices of exotic plants with explosive colours and drenching scents can go from £5 to £500.

Rawley plants are grown in a large, south-facing greenhouse. She imports stock from Mediterranean suppliers. The business had sales of £15,000 in its first year and Miss Rawley is projecting £20,000 for this year.

She believes much of her success is down to choosing plants that thrive in the conditions offered by a particular conservatory. Miss Rawley hopes to attract more attention by exhibiting her exotic plants at the Hampton Court flower show in July.



Doing well: Lisa Rawley, a specialist in rare, exotic plants

BRIEFING

THE retail, leisure and healthcare industries offer investors the chance of buying prospectively good businesses at bargain-base prices, according to Finders, the nationwide business appraiser, which is based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Finders values about 8,000 businesses a year in these three sectors — mostly for banks and other lenders — and from these establishes current trends (Derek Harris writes).

A proportion of the businesses Finders has assessed only needed finance and sound management to produce a good return and eventual capital growth, according to Ian Taylor, the managing director of Finders.

Most are distress sales arising from two main factors. Would-be first-time buyers cannot make a start because they need to sell their homes to raise part of the finance and are crippled by the stagnant domestic property market. Under-funded businesses come on the market because owners cannot get finance to continue trading.

Mr Taylor said: "Some businesses are on offer at silly prices. It is a unique situation in our 20 years of experience. There is a real opportunity for the right investor."

Examples included a freehold, licensed Welsh guesthouse with ten rooms, a restaurant and a small flat, priced at £60,000. Another in Lowestoft, Suffolk, was a freehold bar and bistro with living accommodation, priced at £45,000. Or £60,000 would buy a freehold general store in Cheshire.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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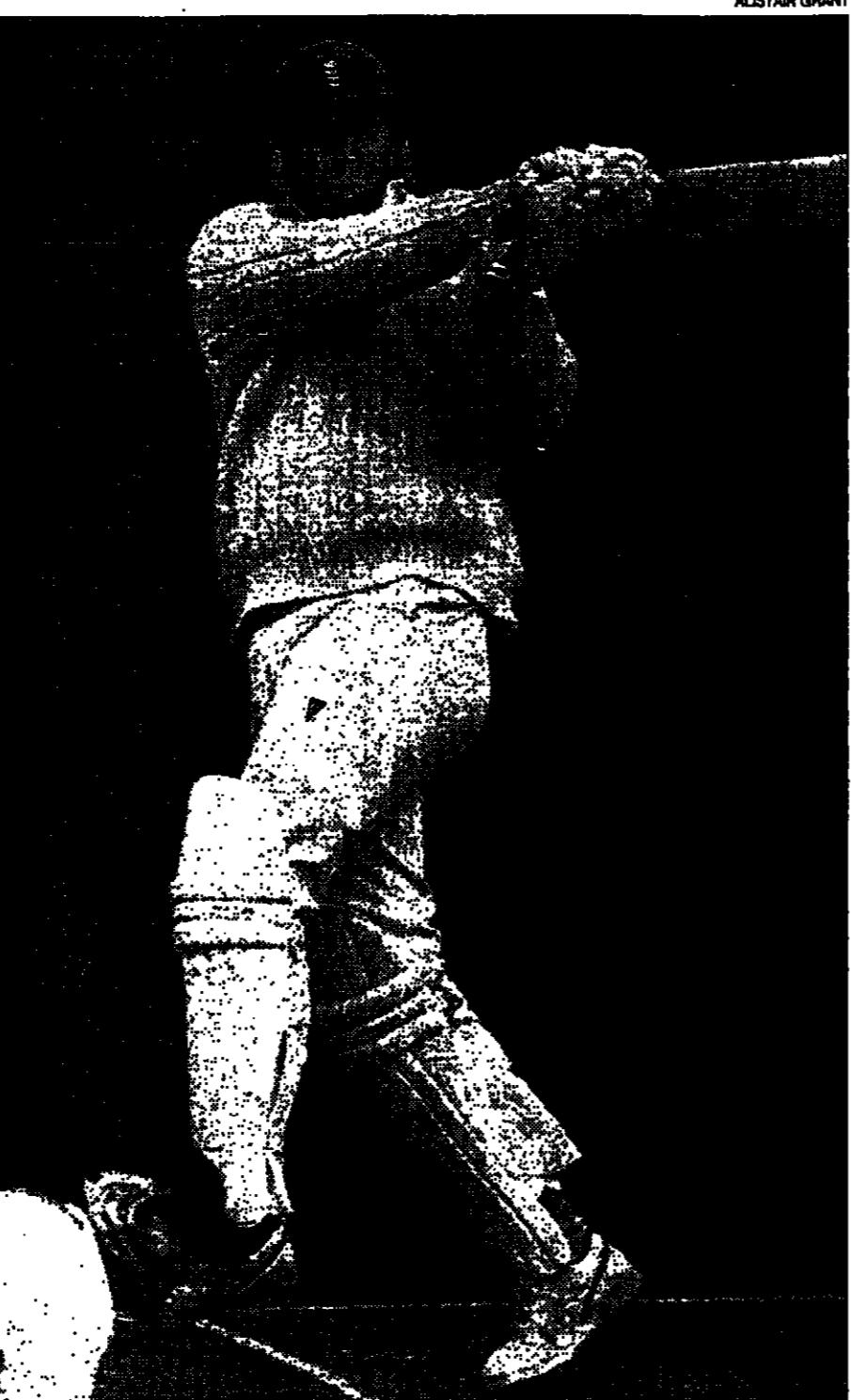
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The Times county-by-county guide by Peter Ball

DERBYSHIRE	
1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 3rd (W9 L5 D5). Refuge Assurance League: 15th (W7 L11 N/R4). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: First round.	1992 staff: C J Adams, K J Barnett (captain), S J Base, I R Bishop, P D Bowler, A M Brown, D G Cork, S C Goldsmith, F A Griffin, M Jean-Jacques, K M Krikken, S J M Maher, D E Morris, J E Morris, O Mortensen, J J O'Gorman, P Mortensen, P E Russell, R W Shipton, A Tweats, A E Warner, P Whitaker. Newcomers: Bishop (Trinidad, West Indies), Richardson, Tweats, Whitaker. Departures: M Azharuddin (India), I Foley, E McCay, B Roberts, Z A Sedik.
THIRD place in the championship last year might even have surprised Derbyshire themselves. Expectations are high as a result, but Azharuddin's 2,000 runs will take some replacing, putting a lot of pressure on Morris to take responsibility and play some big innings, and Adams and O'Gorman	to develop from bit players into major supporting roles behind Barnett.
Unusually though, for the county where they used to whistle down the mineshaft for the next in an endless supply of strong, durable seam bowlers, there is a question about the pace attack. After his year's lay-off, Bishop has returned, but his fitness for the long slog has to be proved, and Malcolm broke down again in the West Indies after one impressive performance on the A tour; while Mortensen is approaching the stage where thought needs to replace speed and aggression.	Player to watch: Dominic Cork. Second seasons tend to be testing ones, but if Derbyshire's senior seam-bowlers fail to last the pace, there will be a lot depending on last year's outstanding discovery.



All-round force: Derek Pringle on the way to a century at Lord's yesterday

DURHAM	
1991: NatWest Trophy: First round.	in that department. On their day, Larkins, Parker and Bodham should make them as attractive as any side in the competition.
1992 staff: P Bainbridge, P J Berry, D A Blenkiron, I T Botham, M J Broad, G K Chappell, S J Clark, D Glendenen, D A Graveney (captain), P W Henderson, S P Hughes, S Hutton, D M Jones, W G Larkins, S M McEwan, P W G Morris, J M Newlands, D P Wightman, J Wood. Newcomers: Berry (York), Botham (Worcester), Graveney (Somerset), Hughes (Middlesex), Jones (Victoria, Australia), Larkins (Northants), McEwan (Worcester), Parker (Sussex), Scott (Worcester), Smith (Gloucester).	Bowling, on the slow Durham wickets, is another matter. The fast bowler, John Wood, may have his moments away from home, but Simon Hughes will probably get all the work he wants, and more, and David Graveney, sometimes reluctant to use his slow left-armers when captaining Gloucestershire, will not be able to afford such respite in the North East.
FOR good or ill, Ian Botham's towering presence will dominate the first new county for 71 years, and if he is inspired by the challenge they could surprise one or two teams along the way. Geoff Cook has recruited a powerful batting line-up, and one to score its runs quickly, too, with the two local players, Glendenen and Blenkiron, no slouches	Player to watch: Darren Blenkiron. Well organised, and with an impressive temperament, a member of the England under-19 touring team last winter, he should be the first of Durham's batch of promising young players to make his mark.

ESSEX	
1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 1st (W11 L5 D5). Refuge Assurance League: 6th (W7 L4 T1 N/R4). Benson and Hedges Cup: Semi-final. NatWest Trophy: Quarter-final.	prove so effective. Ilott makes a welcome return, after the back injury that threatened his career, to augment further the seam bowling department which is already strengthened by Stephenson's sudden emergence, and his admirers believe the off spinner, Such, can develop further.
1992 staff: S J W Andrew, D J P Boden, K A Butler, J H Childs, D M Cousins, N A Foster, J G Fraser, M A Germann, G A Goodwin, S J Hussain, S J Ilott, J V Knight, J B Llewellyn, W G Lovell, P J Prichard, D R Pringle, A C Richards, R J Rollins, D D J Robinson, Nadeem Shahid, J P Stephenson, P M Such, I. T. Tarrant, T D Taylor, S J Taylor, N A Thomas, J A Tinsley, R J Tinsley, Robinson, Tennant (Leicestershire), Departures: Salim Malik (Pakistan), D E East (retired), C A Miller, A C Seymour (Worcester), G Ecclestone.	The return of Mark Waugh means that the old formula of fast-scoring batsmen to give the bowlers time and large targets to bowl at is unchanged. Nasser Hussain could score a lot of runs, the left-hander, Nick Knight, made a huge impression last year and Nadeem Shahid should fulfil the promise of two years ago.
LAST year's champions are expected to be there or thereabouts again. But it is tempting to wonder whether Neil Foster, who is likely to captain the side often, can repeat his heroics of last season, and whether the spinners will continue to	Player to watch: Robert Croft. Full of confidence, he had an impressive season last year, a good winter, and should establish himself as the next England off-spinner.

1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 12th (W5 L5 D12). Refuge Assurance League: 15th (W4 L10 N/R2). Benson and Hedges Cup: Semi-final. NatWest Trophy: Quarter-final.	With Cowdrey concentrating, although not exclusively, on one-day cricket, they could do well in the NatWest Trophy or, with a bit of luck with the weather in the early stages, the Benson and Hedges Cup.
1992 staff: A R Butcher (captain), S Beaton, A R Butcher (captain), P A Cottay, C S Cowdrey, R D B Croft, A Dale, D J Foster, R D Frost, D L Hamp, S P James, S Kirton, M Polden, G P Price, J R Pocock, H Moxon, V A Pritchard, A D Ross, S L Watkin. Newcomers: Cowdry (Kent). Departures: G C Holmes (retired), S J Dennis (retired), M J Cann, S Smith (Durham), M Davies (Gloucester), J Derrick, M L Roberts, R J Shaai (India).	The bowling, though, will determine how good a season they have. Watkin had a dreadful A-team tour of the Caribbean, but is a good bowler in English — and Welsh conditions, and Foster is promising. Croft is probably the pick of young English spinners at the moment, and so they will be quite happy with slow turners to play on.
VIV Richards, after missing last summer on tour with West Indies, returns and Chris Cowdrey arrives to give a powerful batting line-up. Richards has not played first-class cricket since that tour but his class should overcome this. They should get plenty of runs, and with Maynard and Richards, could get them quickly.	Player to watch: Robert Croft. Full of confidence, he had an impressive season last year, a good winter, and should establish himself as the next England off-spinner.
Player to watch: John Stephenson. An established batsman about to become an invaluable all-rounder?	

Officials hope for a closely fought world snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield

White is confident of winning world crown

By PHIL YATES

THE Embassy world championship, which begins its 17-day run at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, tomorrow carries a record total prize fund of £850,000 and is of vital importance to the continued prosperity of the professional game.

Coming at the end of a season when snooker has taken its share of mostly unwarranted media criticism, the game needs to be the winner at Sheffield far more than any player.

Even the most enthusiastic supporter would agree that the general level of interest in tournament snooker is less than that of the mid-Eighties. Critics point out that a game played under uniform conditions — ie, on a 12ft by 6ft

table — has limited permutations. The anti-snooker lobby also props up its case by bemoaning a dearth of characters and a saturated schedule — criticisms frequently levelled at other sports.

This world championship can answer the criticism, at least for a while, by providing a series of intriguing matches and, ideally, a close final. It would be the first since 1985, when Dennis Taylor became a household name by beating Steve Davis 18-17 on the final black before the record afternoon viewing audience of 18.5 million.

Such a climax would be hard to repeat but David Harrison, nearing the end of his first year as chief executive of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), confesses that something similar would be "pure Dreamsicle".

While Harrison is prepared to concede that a gripping final would benefit the game, he remains passionately opposed to those who claim snooker is in decline. "It is a total misconception," utters codswallop, "he says. "There exists no evidence whatsoever that snooker is failing."

Given that television coverage, and therefore viewing figures, are the game's lynchpin, it would appear that, for the most part, Harrison's ar-

DRAW FOR THE EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP				
FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
John Parrott (1) Eddie Charlton				
Tony Knowles (16) Mark Johnston-Allen				
Dennis Taylor (9) Mick Price				
Mike Hendry (8) Alan McManus				
Gary Wilkinson (5) Willis Thorne				
Dean Reynolds (12) Jim Wych				
Alain Robidoux (13) Nigel Bond				
Jimmy White (4) Tony Drago				
Steve Davis (3) Peter Eaton				
Martin Clark (14) Peter Francisco				
Terry Griffiths (11) Bob Chaperon				
Neal Foulds (6) Jason Ferguson				
Steve James (7) Dene O'Kane				
Doug Mountjoy (10) Chris Small				
Tony Jones (15) James Wattana				
Stephen Hendry (2) Stephen Murphy				

First round, second round and quarter-finals are best of 18 frames; semi-finals are best of 31 frames; final is best of 35 frames.
Prize-money
Champion: £150,000; runner-up, £90,000; losing semi-finalists, £45,000;
losing quarter-finalists, £22,500; 2nd round losers, £12,000;
1st round losers, £6,000. Highest break, £14,000.

a popular winner. Jimmy White, beaten three times in the final, would satisfy this criteria. There is a widespread admiration of White's panache and a wave of sympathy for him caused by his succession of near-misses.

Confidence has certainly been lacking in White's preparation. Hugely encouraged by back-to-back vic-

tories in the British Open and European Open last month, White has recently been unable to disguise an unparalleled degree of self-belief.

Not known for brash statements or bold predictions, White has even said: "Unless I get a terrible illness or someone plays like God, I will win the championship. I think snooker needs me to win as

much as I need to myself." Either White is indulging in mind games or, as seems more likely, he genuinely thinks this will be his year. He is renowned for his cue power, an asset directly related to timing. Victory at Sheffield on May 4, at such an important stage in the game's development, would be perfect timing in a much wider sense.

Hendry: firm favourite

1991 BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP				
Essex	P W D	L Bt	BP Pts	
Warwickshire	22 9 5 6	69	57 512	
Derbyshire	22 9 5 10	64	66 245	
Surrey	22 8 6 8	47	66 251	
Kent	22 8 6 10	50	66 252	
Worcesters	22 8 4 12	50	66 205	
Leicesters	22 6 9 7	51	65 147	
Hampshire	22 7 10 7	57	65 193	
Notts	22 4 5 12	51	64 198	
Gloucesters	22 5 10 12	51	64 197	
Yorkshire	22 7 10 7	52	64 159	
Somerset	22 7 7 7	52	64 152	
Northants	22 4 5 12	51	64 150	
Worcesters	22 6 8 11	52	64 147	
Leeds	22 6 8 11	52	64 147	
Glamorgan	22 6 10 9	52	64 147	
Hampshire	22 6 10 9	52	64 147	

1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 9th (W5 L7 D10). Refuge Assurance League: 17th (W7 L12 N/R1). Benson and Hedges Cup: Quarter-final. NatWest Trophy: Winners.

1992 staff: J B Ayling, A N Ayres, P-J Bakker, C A Connor, R M F Cox, D P Flint, D I Gower, K D James, M D Marshall, R J Manu, T C Middleton, R S Morris, M C J Nicholas (captain), R J Parks, K J Smith, A Smith, I R Ward, P Turner, M J Turner, T M Trott, I T Turner, I J Turner, S Udal, J R Wood. Newcomer: Morris. Departure: Aqib Javed (Pakistan), C L Smith (retired).

length of their tail was troubling on occasion last year.

Malcolm Marshall, who

has retired from Test cricket

and also been appointed vice-captain of the county,

may not have the blistering

speed of old, but he has few

equals in cunning and con-

trol, and will still bowl a few

sides out. The pace back-up

is more problematical, unless

Kevin Shine comes on dra-

matically, but if Turner or

Udal develop to support

Maru, the spin attack could

prove profitable in a good

summer. A useful one-day

side, they may lack the

England captain marks his recovery with runs at Lord's

Gooch warms to the comfort of a favourite stage

BY PETER BALL

LORD'S (final day of four): England A drew with Essex

ANOTHER bitter day at Lord's was not very conducive to good cricket, but not even the cold deters the indomitable Graham Gooch. After missing the second day — and the England Player of the Year dinner — with flu, in one way or another he has been central to events on and off the field over the past two days.

The most dramatic recovery since Lazarus, one colleague suggested, but that is too fanciful for the down-to-earth Gooch. Essex man incarnate, his doggedness is that of the stubborn ordinary soldier with large.

His reappointment as England captain filled a blank third day. Yesterday, he was in his even more familiar role as his side's saviour, along with that other worthy infantryman, Derek Pringle.

Pringle claimed the man-of-the-match award with some justice, sharing a six-wicket stand of 113 in 29 overs with his captain, and banting on after Gooch's departure to the close to score the ninth century of his career, and his first

Waugh becoming his first vic-

for four seasons, to follow his three wickets in the England A innings, but the turning point had come with Gooch's arrival in the morning.

Coming in on a hat-trick with the county champions facing the possibility of a serious collapse as Munton and Cork found life and movement, and Salisbury once again, he ensured that the game reached its predictable end rather than suddenly erupting into dramatic life.

Gooch likes Lord's, where he scored his monumental 333 against India, marking that affection yesterday by donating the bat he used in that epic to the Lord's Museum. That innings made an important contribution to his Lord's career average, which stood at 49.9 before he began yesterday.

By the time he fell, it had improved slightly as he reached 75 off 122 balls, hitting one six and nine fours. Most came off Salisbury, who gained revenge by making one turn and bounce sharply to hit the glove, Johnson taking a smart catch at slip.

It was Salisbury's second good wicket of the match, Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Leicestershire take their time

BY IVO TENNANT

FENNER'S (final day of three): Leicestershire beat Cambridge University by 133 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE could have gained a still more conclusive victory than this. That they did not had nothing to do with saving Cambridge University from embarrassment and everything to do with giving all their bowlers match practice.

As it was, Leicestershire won by mid-afternoon. After the loss of play on Wednesday, each side forefeited an innings, which meant that Cambridge were left with a day to make 280.

By lunch, Leicestershire's faster bowlers had removed their first seven batsmen and, since only 57 runs had been scored, the outcome was in no doubt.

After lunch, Briers, the Leicestershire captain, opted to give his spinners a bowl. There was nothing at all in the pitch for them — it fa-

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

FENNER'S (final day of three): Leicestershire beat Cambridge University by 133 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

J. Boon & C. Pearson 51
N. E. Smith & A. Abrajano 120
Umpires: R. A White & P. Adams 26
Extras (b, nb, 3) 9

Total (2 wkt disc) 279

B. F. Smith, P. N. Heywood, G. J. Wells, P. M. Abrajano, S. Whittley, G. Parsons and S. D. Milne did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-102, 2-208

BOWLING: Johnson 11-2-30, Pitcher 8-2-19, B. F. Smith 6-2-12, M. Abrajano 5-2-11, Heyworth 12-5-52; Potter 7-1-21.

Second Innings: Forfeited

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings: forfeited

S. H. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
G. J. Thwaites & B. M. Parsons 0
M. D. Jarrett & B. Parsons 0
J. M. Parker & C. Parsons 0
R. M. Pearson & B. Parsons 0
S. H. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
R. M. Pearson & B. Parsons 0
S. H. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
Total (2 wkt disc) 317

A. M. Hooper did not bat.

Second Innings

A. M. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
S. H. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
J. M. Parker & C. Parsons 0
R. M. Pearson & B. Parsons 0
S. H. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
R. M. Pearson & B. Parsons 0
S. H. Hooper & C. Parsons 0
Total (2 wkt disc) 317

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 3-35, 3-44, 4-51, 5-61, 6-7, 219, 2-287

BOWLING: Malcolm 14-0-750, Munton 14-2-62, Bevington 11-3-142, Salisbury 24-7-53, D. M. Abrajano & B. F. Smith 11-1-190. Umpires: M. J. Kitchen and B. J. Meyer.

Sunday respite pleases Donald

FROM RICHARD STREETON
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ALLAN Donald, the South African fast bowler, yesterday welcomed Warwickshire's decision not to play him in the Sunday League this season.

Donald, who was practising here for the Test match with West Indies tomorrow, knows he must be at his most lethal if South Africa are to have any chance of victory.

Donald said the World Cup left him weary of one-day games, with their restrictive rules on overs and wickets, and he sees South Africa's historic return to Test cricket as the zenith of his career. He had no prior knowledge of Warwickshire's intention but views it as realistic thinking that will help to keep him fresh for championship fixtures.

Mike Procter, the South African coach, denied that Donald had been over-worked in the World Cup. He had bowled only ten overs a game like everyone else.

Procter did not consider the Sunday League, where bowlers were limited to eight overs, as being too demanding.

As Northamptonshire's director of cricket, he could not see the country taking the same line with Ambrose.

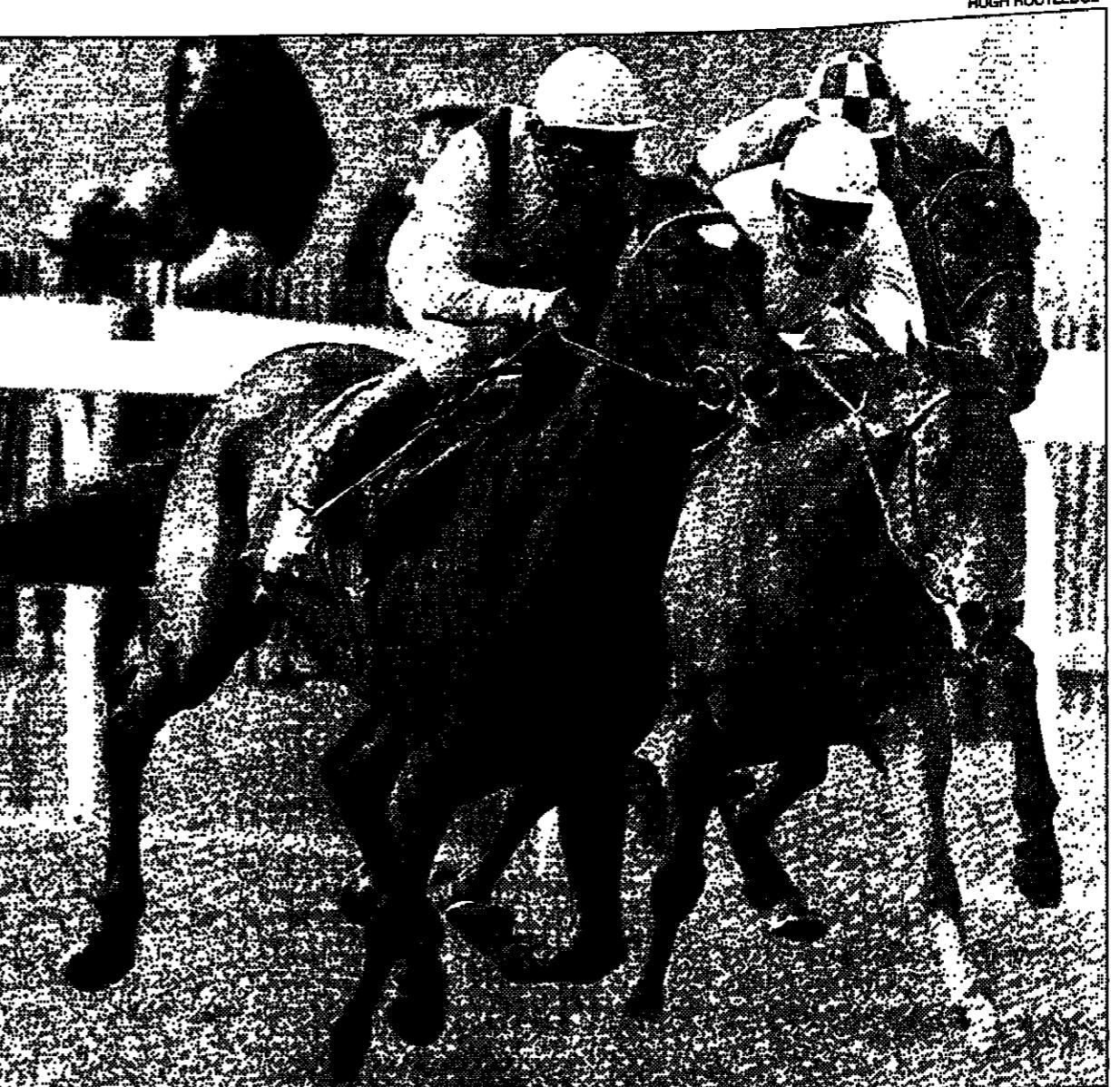
After almost a year's non-stop cricket, Donald, aged 25, said he had been tired and jaded in South Africa's first two one-day internationals in Jamaica and Trinidad, before he was rested from the race.

"Now I am feeling better than I have for a long time," he said. "I am really looking forward to the Test match where I can settle down, relax and bowl a decent spell. Hopefully I will be able to show the West Indies what I am capable of."

Both South Africa and West Indies are expected to include four fast bowlers on a hard, grassy Kensington Oval pitch that should provide pace and bounce early in the game.

This is the first Test match to be played in the Caribbean since the International Cricket Council introduced their experimental rule limiting bowlers to not more than one bouncer at the same batsman in an over. Malcolm Marshall this week described the rule as reducing cricket to rounders.

Donald's control and rhythm had improved immeasurably at Warwickshire under Bob Woolmer's guidance. He believes his newly developed outswinger brought him most of the 83 wickets he took last summer for the county.



Victory march: Alnasr Alwasheek (Steve Cauthen) wins the Craven Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

Stoute sights imminent classic

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ALNASR Alwasheek, which is Arabic for imminent victory, lived up to his name with a scintillating last-to-first success in the Craven Stakes yesterday to become the new favourite for the 2,000 Guineas on May 2.

The classic trial, which has been won by four subsequent 2,000 Guineas winners during the past seven years, was completed in fast time and Michael Stoute looks to have an excellent chance of recording his third victory in the colt's classic following those of Shaded and Doyoun in 1985 and 1988 respectively.

"He is not the most robust horse I have trained but he is clean winded and we know he was in good shape. He has been working consistently well."

"In the Tiffany Highflyer Stakes last year in which Alnasr Alwasheek finished third to Young Senor he was drawn on the far side and Steve had to keep him handy. Today I wanted him to drop in and relax. That's his strong suit and I think he has a good turn of foot."

As Irish Memory and Bold Pursuit set a furious pace over the first half-mile, Steve Cauthen settled Alnasr Alwasheek at the back of the eight-strong field. Just over two furlongs out he made his move, taking the Sadler's Wells colt to the outside before springing clear for an impressive win.

Dr Devious, who gave 5lb to the winner, came through to finish one-and-a-half lengths second. The Peter Chapple-Hamzah trained colt will join Arazi in Louisville for the Kentucky Derby, on May 6.

Stoute said: "He is not the most robust horse I have trained but he is clean winded and we know he was in good shape. He has been working consistently well."

Forrest Tiger, the 11-4 favourite, was a bitter disappointment and was beaten a full three furlongs from home before trailing in last. Frankie Detori said: "It was too bad for him to relax. He will have a good chance of getting a mile and a half."

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Guineas day before returning Britain for the Ever Ready Derby at Epsom.

Irish Memory, who stayed on gamely for third, two-and-a-half lengths away, is due to reappear in the winner at Newmarket. Victor Chandler offered a best-priced 4-1 about Alnasr Alwasheek for the 2,000 Guineas.

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England coach unhappy with law changes

Best criticises maul experiment as an inducement to cheat

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DICK BEST, the England coach, criticised the experimental maul law which the International Rugby Football Board recommended at its annual meeting in Wellington yesterday, giving the scrum feed to the team not in possession when a maul ends.

"I can see the thinking but I think it's stupid," he said. "You are encouraging people to get on the wrong side of mauls and to cheat. It helps a side prevent the flow of a game." Brian Moore, England's hooker and pack leader, agreed. "The team taking the ball into a tackle situation, if they don't produce the ball, will be deprived of the punt," he said. "That to me, rewards negative play."

"If people get into wrong positions inadvertently there will be such a desperate desire to get them out because they need the ball. I think it could increase violence." Moore took the view that not all the changes had been thought through properly and that no co-ordinated attempt had been made to move the game forward.

Putting rugby onside again

THE International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) in announcing its law changes, may have given rugby a significant shift in emphasis without turning the game, as some had feared, into what has been described as a "pyjama" version of the real thing.

The clamour to appeal to a new, possibly bigger audience, and the need for television to satisfy this, might have motivated the law makers to provide for a faster-moving game with fewer stoppages.

Laudable, but in so doing would they emasculate the traditional nature of rugby union, its style and peculiar flavour, thereby limiting the variation in physical characteristics and the choice and appreciation of the finer tactical points. Rugby union should not be another version of rugby league.

The agreed changes have avoided such modifications. The law pertaining to offside in general, to advance ahead of the kick-off of the ball to within ten metres of the catcher, as has been the case, could effectively bring the game to a standstill, as it almost did in the World Cup semi-final at Lansdowne Road.

This law also encouraged what has come to be known as "ping pong" rugby, apparent during the five nations' championship as well. Since there is no opportunity to counter attack because of the line of defence, players from either side simply kick the ball back and forth. The sophisticated coach has already been talking of

their approach — under the new values, the 1992 grand game between England and France would have been drawn 22-22, the French having scored three tries to one.

Jeff Young, the Welsh Rugby Union's technical director, emphasised that the implications of the law changes had to be examined. "Our first stage will be to talk them through in our technical department and with our referees," he said. "We can benefit from these maul and maul changes in Wales because we are good at committing players, but not so expert at delivering the ball."

Ken Rowlands, the WRU referee development officer, approved the board's ambition to speed up the game and make it more attractive by increasing the points scoring.

We are particularly pleased they have reduced a number of penalties to free kicks, although we also believe that in time it might be useful to reduce all penalties to free kicks, other than for foul play and offside," he said.

Etheridge selected by Ireland

JOHN Etheridge, the Northampton lock who made four appearances for England B in 1989, has been drafted into Ireland's squad to tour New Zealand next month. (David Hands writes). He takes the vacancy created when Neil Francis withdrew but the Irish have also lost Gordon Hamilton, the Ballymena flanker, who has yet to recover from a back injury.

Etheridge, aged 26, who made his name with Gloucester, had earlier indicated his availability for the Irish Exiles for next season's inter-provincial championship, on the basis of his Irish father, □ David Sole, Scotland's captain, will lead the World XV in the first of their three meetings with New Zealand in Christchurch tomorrow. He takes over the position after the withdrawal of Nick Farr-Jones, Australia's World Cup-winning captain, who damaged an ankle in Sydney on Wednesday.

Since the law makers are not yet convinced of the idea of a differential penalty, they have given the non-offending team a double advantage; if they kick the ball out of play, they also have the throw-in at the subsequent line out.

No IRFB statement on the laws would be appropriate without at least some disagreement. To effectively disallow a player to kick the ball after retreating behind his 22-metre line is likely to prove a headache for the referees.

And to permit coaches to go onto the field at half-time is an ominous development which ought to be resisted.

As a players' game, the performers should rise or fall by their own efforts.



Track memento: Godfrey Brown with his relay gold medal from the Berlin Olympics

Trio recalls golden memories

BY KEN LAWRENCE

THREE gold medal winners at Berlin in 1936 reflected yesterday on the changes that 56 years have seen in the Olympic Games — and decided they had not been for the better.

Bill Roberts, Godfrey Brown and Colonel Godfrey Rampling were three of the heroes of the men's 4 x 400 metres relay in "Hitler's Olympics" (the fourth member of Great Britain's winning team, Fred Wolff, died four years ago). The trio will star again shortly in a BBC television series, *Tales of*

Gold, which will recapture over six weeks the glory of 17 British medal winners. It begins on BBC1 next Friday.

Roberts and Brown viewed their own glorious race and some of the other history makers at the BBC in London yesterday, and agreed that it was "wonderful, heartwarming nostalgia". But for those who will compete in Barcelona it was, they said "a totally different world".

In 1936 there was little training except for someone at university, like Brown. Roberts did his by running to his Manchester timber works each day. A five-penny tube

fare could be queried — and was, even after they had beaten Jesse Owens and the Americans at White City.

And the man who came sixth in the Olympics was told, in all seriousness, that he had now "justified his selection".

Rampling said: "We are looking back on an age of sporting innocence." He and his peers had run "only for fun".

"We got nothing out of it. Today it is so highly commercialised," Rampling said.

Roberts deplored huge cash payments and drugs. "The one leads to the other —

£60,000 a year to run is a terrible temptation."

The former head of Worcester Royal Grammar School, Brown envies today's athletes only the time they have for training. "We never realised our potential. The Americans even then had coaches and all the time for coaching. But we only got fit running in the Olympics. But I would not be happy going our thinking it was being paid."

Brown recalled that Hitler "did watch the finals and behaved quite properly over the presentation of medals".

BADMINTON

Nielsen reveals fighting quality

BY RICHARD EATON

ANDERS Nielsen reached the semi-finals of the Pilkington Glass European championships in Glasgow yesterday with a magnificent recovery from 4-11 down in the final game to win 15-14, 15-13, 15-13 against the athletic Robert Liljequist, from Finland. The contest lasted almost an hour and a half, the longest of the quarter-finals, and will be a candidate for the match of the tournament.

It was also the third unexpected triumph within two months for the Surrey man, who became English national champion in February, reached the quarter-finals of the All England championship unseeded, and yesterday beat one of the surprise achievers of the event.

Liljequist, the world No. 29, had beaten the fourth seeded Swede, Jens Olson, and it was easy to see why. He rallied endlessly, had a fine disguised overhead drop shot and played a number of effi-

cative rallies at the net. Nielsen attacked often at the start but got lured into the long rallies and three incidents in the middle of the match suggested that he was running into trouble.

First, Liljequist saved two match points at 14-13 in the second game. Then, at 14-15, Nielsen revealed his tension after netting a smash by hurling his racket to the floor and breaking it. Worse still, at 0-3 in the final game, when the umpire adjudged a foul shot on Nielsen, the Englishman became involved in a lengthy argument.

Nielsen regained his composure and revealed that he is one of the most determined fighters in the game. At 13-13 in the final game, he summoned the energy for a smash and a forehand drive which took him to match point and then clinched the contest with a lift to the back which Liljequist put wide of the backhand line.

SWIMMING

Champion points the finger

KORNELIA ENDER

Grunnit, who played lead wundermachen at the East German domination from 1972 to 1976, competed for the first time in Berlin yesterday (Craig Lord writes).

Her efforts at the Edinburgh international meeting brought her, at 29.02 seconds, within half a second of a European masters record at 50 metres freestyle. Although well short of making the final she did not lag when pressed on allegations of drug abuse by former East German sportsmen and women.

She believes that individuals such as Katrin Krabbe, the athlete who was unjustly banned when so many had not been subject to random tests. Ender Grunnit would have sought out the doctors and coaches, to blame for the drug abuse had her children been handicapped. They were not, and yesterday Franziska, aged 13, was ninth and sixteenth in her own age group.

HOCKEY

Holders likely to stretch Havant

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN AMSTERDAM

HAVANT and Hounslow seek new fortune in The Netherlands over the next four days. Havant in the European club championship at Amstelveen, and Hounslow in the Cup Winners' Cup at Vught. The former for both competitions is the same, the winners of each pool qualifying for the final.

Havant, who arrived here on Wednesday night, practised yesterday afternoon for today's match against the Belgian club, Royal Leopold.

Havant face a more forbidding task on Sunday against Uhlenhorst, from Muenchen, winners for the past four years. But Havant's short-corner routine, in which Hill plays a prominent part, can match that of the Germans.

The Ulster club, Lismore, face strong opposition from Atletico Terrassa, of Spain, and Bloemendaal from The Netherlands, in the other group.

In the women's tourna-

ment Slough can expect strong opposition from the two Dutch clubs, HGC and Amsteldamse, in pool A. Glasgow Western are in pool B along with Eintracht Frankfurt, Club de Campo, from Madrid, and Stade francis, from Paris.

Hounslow have a good chance of finishing on top of pool B in the Cup Winners' Cup at Vught. Their opponents are SPV Illescas, of Spain, Cork (Harlequins) and White Star, from Belgium.

Sutton Coldfield will carry England's banner in the women's Cup Winners' Cup. They are in pool B along with San Sebastian, from Spain, Old Alexandria, from Ireland, and Club Raffenburg, from Germany.

A total of 42 teams will take part in the 86th Easter festival at Folkestone, where on Sunday the main overseas visitors, Royal Ulster of Belgium, will meet the Festival XI.

FOR THE RECORD

LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrogate RA, Eccleshall 2.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Brazil 3, Finland 1 (in Castro).

Late results on Wednesday.

BARCLAYS' CHALLENGE CUP: Second division: Bishop's Stortford 2, Leicester 1; Tamworth 0; Middlesex 2, Oxford 1; Southend 0; Port Vale 0.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Area finale second leg: Stockport 1, Bristol 0; Northern section: Stockport 2, Burnley 2; Stockport with 3-1 on aggregate.

GM VAUGHAN'S CONFERENCE: Gateshead 2, Northumbria 1.

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Anderlecht 3, Red Star Belgrade 2; Group B: Parma 2, Juventus 1; Group C: Steaua Bucarest 3, Belgrade 2; Group D: Juventus 3, Monaco 1 on away

(aggregate); 3-3, Monaco win on away

(aggregate).

UEFA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Anderlecht 1, Juventus 1 (aggregate); 3-2 on aggregate.

WORLD CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Werder Bremen 2, Club Brugge 0 (Werder Bremen win 2-1 on aggregate).

WORLD CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Argentina 1, West Germany 1 (aggregate); 2-2, Argentina win on away

(aggregate).

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THE TIMES SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 17 1992

Try worth five points to encourage attack

Board brings in new laws to speed up game

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), having held its breath on law changes for the last four years, released it with a gusty sigh yesterday. Though the wording of the laws themselves has yet to be made known, a wide-ranging series of changes has been agreed with the intention of speeding up the game and removing what the board describes as "irritating stoppages".

The supremacy of the try over the goal-kick has been emphasised by changing its value from four to five points — the first change in values since 1971, when the try increased from three to four. Thus a converted try will be worth seven points, the negative side of which is that teams may feel able to risk conceding two penalty kicks (worth six points) without being overtaken.

However the value of the dropped goal, so historic a feature of rugby, remains intact at three points; the life of the drop kick, too, is enhanced by its adoption as the way to restart after a score, although, in the sixth comprehensive review of the laws since the last century and the fourth since the second world war, players will be barred from dropping at goal following a free kick.

The IRFB, at the end of its annual meeting in Wellington, ran the gamut of business from amateurism to tours, but the greatest weight concerned the laws and the debate between the two hemispheres: the north, concerned with traditional aspects of the

THE PRINCIPAL CHANGES

- Try to be worth five points — no other change in values but a team awarded a free kick may not score a dropped goal until the ball next becomes dead.
- After a tackle, any other player (not involved in the tackle) must be on his feet when he plays the ball. If he is not, the ball may not advance towards a player waiting to play the ball until they have been put on side.
- It will be illegal to intentionally lift an opponent off his feet or force him to the ground at a scrum.
- Five-metre scrums to be awarded opposite the place where the ball becomes dead and not where it crosses the goal-line.
- Up to four replacements may be used by each team on account of injury.
- Coaches may come on the field at half-time in under-19 games and in such domestic matches as a union may authorise.
- A players' union or affiliated organisation may cite a player for foul play that has not been determined by the referee.
- Twelve penalty provisions have been changed to free kicks, including the deliberate knock-on, illegal lineout support, handling the ball at ruck or scrum, and time-wasting.

Experimental variations

- At a maul, if the ball becomes unplayable or the maul becomes stationary, the team not in possession at the start of the maul will feed the ensuing scrum; the same applies to a lineout if the referee cannot determine the team responsible for making the ball unplayable.
- At lineouts, there must be one man back on each side, players jumping must use both hands and his inside arm, but players may not step across the line of touch.
- A quick kick may be taken by a team at either a penalty or free kick without waiting for players of that team to retire behind the ball, provided they do not become involved in play.
- A player recovering a ball from a touch himself may take a quick

game, against the south, keen to offer an effective counter to rugby league.

In fact, the two may not be so far apart, since so much of rugby union's play hinges on interpretation. For example, the suggestion that the first player to reach a tackle must be on his feet when he plays the ball merely repeats a law which was applied so firmly by Jim Fleming, the Scottish referee, in the opening match of the World Cup.

"I would hope the changes would produce a more attractive spectacle to give greater stimulus to pass the ball and run with it, rather than kick it," Roger Vanderfield, the board chairman, said. Certainly the laws may reduce set-piece play and encourage teams to become more creative if they have the will to implement them positively.

Southern-hemisphere countries can introduce the changes as soon they wish, but Australia and Scotland already have an agreement that existing laws apply to the Scottish tour in May; the same will apply to Ireland in New Zealand, who aim to

introduce the new laws on June 7. The Rugby Football Union has indicated its desire that the present laws apply to their B tour in New Zealand in June and July.

The question of eligibility for international matches remains unresolved, and will probably arise at the interim council meeting in November.

Among professionalism players reinstated as amateurs is Terry Holmes, the former Wales and British Isles scrum half, who signed league forms for Bradford Northern. Other reinstated are — England: D. K. Hill, S. D. Wilson, M. Chester; Wales: M. Rose; Wales: M. Price; D. Watkins; E. V. Watkins; P. Bennett; Australia: C. Roche, A. D'Arcy. The gap between the last receipt of material benefit and reinstatement has been reduced from five to three years.

Two more countries, Bermuda and Lithuania, have been admitted to membership of the IRFB, but no further details will emerge of the 1995 World Cup in South Africa before the tournament organising committee has met the South African Rugby Football Union.

South Africa, confirmed this week as hosts of the 1995 World Cup, are to withdraw from their proposed tour of Romania and Italy in June, after criticism that they should concentrate first on a development programme for the black townships. Their return to international rugby will now be against New Zealand on August 15.

The Palmer committee made no attempt to explain the rationale behind the report to the counties, they just prepared and presented it.

"The working party took

and that's why it didn't succeed," Murray said. "I'm optimistic."

This time, his committee has carried on extensive consultations. Suggestions yesterday were that there will be wide support. Lancashire, who were traditionally opponents, are supportive, and there were indications that Yorkshire will also fall into line.

Chris Hassell, the Yorkshire chief executive, said: "Our committee has always been opposed to a four-day championship but we may have to come to terms with the tide of current opinion.

My initial view about the proposals which were made public today, is they have a lot of commendable aspects.

"I also don't think the fears of some counties about the proposed new structure will be substantiated."

If the recommendations are accepted, the county championship will consist of 17 four-day matches, all beginning on Thursday.

Teams will alternate between nine and eight home fixtures. The alternative view of retaining three-day games but uncovering the pitches was considered but rejected because of the priority given to Test cricket in the committee's deliberations.

"The working party took



Lord of the ring: Graham Gooch unleashes another commanding shot through the covers during his fine 75 for Essex against England A at Lord's yesterday. Photograph: Alistair Grant. Report, page 26

Counties in the driving seat

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FOR the next month, English cricket will stand at the crossroads like a dithering motorist. The counties have been presented with a new and exciting direction, a bypass to the wearisome congestion their game has increasingly suffered. Will they take the streamlined route, or sette for the safety of the familiar road?

A working party, under Mike Murray, was set up amid general scorn. Why, it was asked, should it have any more success against reactionary tendencies than several similar committees in the past? Already, it has provided some compelling answers by approaching its task assiduously, consulting broadly, and adopting a refreshing openness.

If the proposals unveiled yesterday were not thought remarkable, it is because they are the very reforms for which players, coaches, media, umpires — indeed, almost everyone involved in the game — have been clamouring for some years. The dissenters, almost to a man, have been the committee men who now, of course, have the decisive voice.

Previous attempts to introduce a four-day championship and to improve the cricketing appeal of the Sunday league and Benson and Hedges Cup have met with objections put ostensibly on financial grounds but, in many cases, founded on parochial prejudices and a fear of the unknown.

Of course, there will be certain sacrifices to be made for the general good. Now, surely, they must be seen as worthwhile, because the framework for the 1994 season, which the working party has created, is more attractive for players and spectators than the confused mess of recent years.

Championship games would be played only once a week, and always on the same days. Sundays would contain a proper one-day game and Tuesdays would belong to knockout cricket.

The season would begin later, with more chance of civilised weather and none of the fragmenting frustration of zonal one-day cricket, and would proceed in an organised routine. The championship would be authentic, at last, each side playing the others once. The players would have so much travelling and Test players would play a higher proportion of knockout cricket.

A bigger change comes in the Sunday League, the *bête noire* of the purists but staff of life for the impecunious counties.

The committee recommends that the games should increase from 40 to 50 overs a side, starting at 12, and finishing at 7pm, with a forty-five minute interval at 3.10pm.

County guide, page 24-5
England A draw, page 26

County game's traditions will disappear under reforms

By PETER BALL

COUNTY cricket is facing its biggest change since the introduction of the one-day game 30 years ago. The three-day match, the basis of English first-class cricket this century, will virtually disappear next season if the Murray committee proposals are accepted by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) meeting on May 19.

The committee, which was set up in September under the chairmanship of Mike Murray to review the structure of the first-class game, has proposed radical restructuring of both the county championship and the one-day competitions. Only the NatWest Trophy survives untouched.

The Murray committee is the third, following the Clark Report and, three years ago, the Palmer committee to assemble a package of major changes. The two others failed to gain a majority, but Murray, the chairman of Middlesex and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) finance committee, exuded an air of quiet confidence yesterday.

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and that's why it didn't succeed," Murray said. "I'm optimistic."

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A Lesson with Leadbetter competition

Win a weekend for two in Orlando, Florida and receive personal one-to-one instruction from David Leadbetter. Fifty videos will be given away as runners-up prizes.

Watch out for question four in The Times on Saturday.

Question 1:
Which of David's pupils does he refer to as 'my best advertisement'?

Question 2:

In which year did Leadbetter's famous Scottish pupil win the coveted 'Green Jacket'?

Question 3:

Which Australian did Leadbetter help to win the 120th Open Championship?



Available at all good video stockists.

Barcelona reach for main prize

By NICHOLAS HARLING

example of an anticipation best forgotten in reality, no body will be expecting too much this time.

Between them the clubs had reached the Cup Winners' Cup final in each of the last three seasons. Both teams were favourites to advance from their semi-final groups, instigated for the first time this season and the subject of so much criticism.

They also defeated Sampdoria 2-0 in the 1989 Cup Winners' Cup final in Berne, but unlike their rivals for the Spanish League, Real Madrid, the six-time European champions, it has never been Barcelona's privilege to win the main event.

Sampdoria, who have reached the final at the first attempt, return to the scene of their 1990 pre-season Makrini Trophy success. Should they win again it will be the third triumph in four years for Italian clubs. AC Milan having done so in 1989 and 1990.

Theoretically the final should provide a fascinating contrast. Barcelona's adventurous approach against Sampdoria's slightly more cautious style, but if last year's final between Red Star Belgrade and Marseilles was an

competition for a French club, and only the sixth in all for French clubs in Europe. None of the previous five has succeeded, nor even Marseilles in spite of all the millions of francs spent in the attempt by Bernard Tapie, their president.

Tapie, incidentally, who is also the French urban affairs minister, and Marseilles, are one of nine French clubs under investigation by the fraud squad. The justice ministry has reopened inquiries into alleged embezzlement involving transfer fees.

Bremen, trailing 1-0 to Club Bruges, beat the Belgian 2-0 in the return, with Manfred Bockenfeld's sixteenth-minute goal decisive. The defender was later carried off after a collision with the Bruges goalkeeper, Danny Verlinden, but doctors told him that he had only bruised his shin that was feared to be broken.

Bockenfeld is expected to be available for the final but Oliver Reck will not be so lucky. Bremen's goalkeeper, booked in the second half, incurred his second yellow card of the competition.

The game, like the first leg, was soured by crowd trouble, which left a German, aged 38, in critical condition yes-

Sella confused by tour omission

By CHRIS THAU

THE casual manner of the announcement that the senior French backs, Jean-Baptiste Lafond, Franck Mesnel and Philippe Sella, the captain during the five nations' championship, were going to miss the tour to Argentina indicated a degree of consensus by all concerned: players, coaches and managers. Not so, according to Sella.

"I have not been consulted and I don't understand the decision," he said.

Pierre Berbier, the coach of the team, explained: "I spoke to Sella, Mesnel and Lafond and asked them to take a break from the game. I think they are worn out and I believe they need a rest in order to regenerate."

"I want to take to Argentina a group of young players to blood them for future competitions. We are all aware that we need a new side by 1995 and if we don't start to bring youngsters in somewhere we will be caught unprepared by the World Cup. I've told the three that I count on them for the Springbok series in the autumn," Berbier said.

Sella, though, believes there is a more sinister motive behind the move. "There is a strong similarity between the way Camberabero and Lagisque got the push and the way we are treated," Sella said.

"I'm not tired at all. The only person who could say whether I need a rest or not is myself. Besides, when you go on tour with a young side you need an old wise head around. The captain is part of the team and if you want to develop the side you need a captain as well, don't you?"

"And, what is going to happen to the captain who is taking France to Argentina when they come back? Are they going to drop him?"

The author of the plan to use the tour to Argentina to launch a new generation for the 1995 World Cup is Robert Paparemborde, a big influence in the French federation. However, while the idea to bring new talent into the ranks is commendable, the painful truth is that there is not a centre of Sella's quality in French rugby.

THE FERRY ANGEL: David Freeman's spectacular production of Prokofiev's *Mother Goose*, in which the gymnasts of the Marimba Acrobatic Troupe provide a company of sailors who, despite their lack of action, will not be to all tastes, but conductor Edward Downes and an outstanding cast carry the evening. Serge Leiferkus sings Ruprecht, Galina Gorchakovs sings Renata and Robert Tear is Mephistopheles. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 071-240 1066. tomorrow, 8pm.

DON CARLOS: Mark Elder conducts the new English National Opera production of Verdi's vast, grand drama of conflict between personal and political power. Directed by David Pountney, a star cast includes Rosalind Plowright as Elizabeth, Edmund Barham and Don Carlos, Linda Fairman is Princess Eboli, Gwynne Howell takes the role King Philip and Richard Van Allan lords it as the Grand Inquisitor. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 071-836 31611, tomorrow, 6.15pm.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Sir David Willcocks conducts the ECO, joined by the choir of Christ Church's St Martin's Porch. An impressive gathering of soloists features Joan Rodgers, Sarah Walker, Neil Mackie, Stephen Roberts, Robert Tear and David Wilson-Gough. Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333), today, 2pm.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH: Lestor Hellay conducts the Wren Orchestra of London, the Royal Choral Society and soloists Lynne Dawson, Yvonne Howard,

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story freshness. Aldwych, The Alhambra, WC2 071-836 31611. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed., 8.30pm, Sat, 9pm, 10.15pm.

THE DARK RIVER: Accomplished revival of Rodney Ackland's 1937 drama, naivete and nostalgia in an England during the war. Orange Tree, Gloucester Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Thurs., 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm.

DEATH AND THE MANDRENE: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Aeneil Dorfman's Cleon political satire. Royal Court, Sloane Street, Duke of York's, 51 Martin's Lane, WC2 071-2017-836 5123. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs., 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINIKER: Scrumptious drill talk from the man who turned a soccer mat.

Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 071-450 5075. Mon-Thurs., 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm, 13 shows.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Wit and stylized comedy as the king's climb to the top of the world of rock bands and packed with Scrubs songs. Old Vic, Swan Lane, P.C. Off Peter Street, W1 (071-437 2661) after 2pm. Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 8pm, 9.30pm.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satchmo musical celebrating blues and scores from past classics. Great Steel, Playhouse, 100 New Bond Street, W1 (071-439 4501) Mon-Thurs., 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, 10.15pm.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave headline Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, heart-breaking drama. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 071-930 8800. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed., 2.30pm, 225mins.

HENRY IV PART 1: Julian Glover, Robert Stephens, Michael Maloney in Alan Alda's stirring production.

NEW RELEASES

EUROPA: 151 Intrigue and lush escape comedy on Germany's train network in 1945. Empty-headed fantasy from Danish wunderboy Lars von Trier. With Jean-Hugues Anglade, Christian Clavier. 071-373 27431. Everyman (071-435 1525) Curzon West End (071-39 4805).

STOP! OR MY MUM WILL SHOOT: IPG Pestemal mum Estelle Getty comes to visit her son's bachelor pad. Sublime comedy for the easily pleased director, Roger Spottwood.

EMPIRE: (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9721) MGM Baker Street (071-370 5636) Whitesby (071-792 3332).

VOYAGER: 151 Strange coincidence and a pretty girl deal the life of a slope-ironing engineer (Sam Shepard). Sober, unbroken version of Max Frisch's novel. Alan Alda, director, toller Schenkhardt. Curzon West End (071-339 4805).

LA BELLE NOISEUSE: Jacques Rancourt's film of the 19th-century Parisian brothel and its girls, coming to compete in an abandoned canals. Close to a masterpiece. Véronique Puccini. Emma Stone, Brad Pitt, Jane Birkin. Renier (071-867 1119) 8.45pm.

BUGSY: 151 Vivian Beaumont, the last of the great stars, in a career-defining, anti-climax to her final film. Barry Levinson. Camryn Manheim, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Diane Venora. Miramax (071-373 1527) Odysseus (071-370 5636) Whitesby (071-792 3332).

CAFE FEAR: 151 Strange coincidence and a pretty girl deal the life of a slope-ironing engineer (Sam Shepard). Sober, unbroken version of Max Frisch's novel. Alan Alda, director, toller Schenkhardt.

Curzon West End (071-339 4805).

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THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WEST: 151 Elizabeth Taylor, Elizabeth Perkins, Julia Roberts, Holly Hunter, and a host of other stars, anti-climax to her final film. Barry Levinson. Camryn Manheim, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Diane Venora. Miramax (071-373 1527) Odysseus (071-370 5636) Whitesby (071-792 3332).

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ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

APOLLO: 071-836 7611. Tues-Fri, 7.30pm, 11.15pm; Sat, 10pm, 11.15pm; Sun, 4pm, 6pm. Every 1st Group 071-350 1233. Now beginning at 7.30pm. **THE MAMMOTH WALK:** MUSICAL. Musical. Ward Rd, 2.30pm and 4.30pm. 8.00pm. **THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WEST:** 151 Elizabeth Taylor, Elizabeth Perkins, Julia Roberts, Holly Hunter, and a host of other stars, anti-climax to her final film. Barry Levinson. Camryn Manheim, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Diane Venora. Miramax (071-373 1527) Odysseus (071-370 5636) Whitesby (071-792 3332).

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GALLERIES: LONDON

His eternal posing was not in vain

Never afraid of acting up to painters, caricaturists and to photographers, George Bernard Shaw in his ubiquitous prime became the most instantly recognisable writer of the day. The images he generated fill the National Portrait Gallery's GBS In Close Up exhibition with unquenchable provocation and humour. But the surprise of the show is the early Shaw, who waited a remarkably long time before presenting his fully-formed GBS persona to the Victorian world.

Far from conquering literary London overnight, as an *enfant terrible* spawned by his native Dublin, Shaw only made his debut as a playwright at the age of 36. Before then, he was known as either a critic or a novelist and the first memorable portraits of him show a man emerging from obscurity with confidence. Self-consciously placed against a backdrop of leaves in Battersea Park, the writer narrows his eyes for a camera held by the fine-art printer Emery Walker. His stiff smile cannot hide the scepticism with which Shaw views the lens, as he shelters beneath the shadow of a broad-brimmed hat.

At that time, as well as reviewing music for *The Star* under the pseudonym *Corno di Bassotto*, he was art critic of *The World*. One of his columns was scornful of the routine society portraiture churned out by Herkomer and pompously paraded at the Royal Academy. Perhaps he feared the prospect of turning into an effigy as depicted as Herkomer's sitters.

Photography was different. Posing for Walker ended up beguiling Shaw so much that he became fascinated by the camera's possibilities. He acquired a camera of his own,

Richard Cork reviews a show of pictures of George Bernard Shaw at the National Portrait Gallery

and soon gave rein to strange, narcissistic fantasies. Around 1898 he photographed himself, the sylph-like product of a vegetarian diet, in a one-piece bathing costume. Then he posed naked on the beach, and a few years later nude at his writing desk.

The inhibition had been replaced by shameless showmanship. His new friend Harley Granville-Barker was obliged to photograph Shaw's bared flesh on the seashore at Mevagissey, but he assumed a less brazen mien when sitting for Rodin in 1906. Flattered by having his bust carved by such a renowned sculptor, Shaw was further gratified when Rodin likened his face to Christ's.

Such compliments are not, however, guaranteed to nurture incisive portraits. Both the bronze and marble versions of Shaw's bust were unrevealing, even dutiful. Their bland placidity made a nonsense not only of the sitter's innate restlessness, but of Rodin's own legendary dynamism.

As Shaw described it, the sculptor liked "taking a big draught of water into his mouth and spitting it on to the clay to keep it constantly pliable. Absorbed in his work, he did not always aim well and soaked my clothes." Shaw was also astonished by the mutilations Rodin inflicted on his features, slicing off noses and ears with such surgical efficiency that the sitter's wife "expected to see the wife already terribly animated clay begin to bled".

No sign of these alarming

struggles was allowed to disturb the finished busts. They sit on the side of discretion, and the only sculptor to seize something of Shaw's ceaseless vitality was Epstein. Although the playwright was 78 by the time this furrowed bronze was modelled in 1934, his wildly protuberant eyes and turbulent beard have the unruly energy of an Old Testament prophet.

The impetuous action of Epstein's finger and thumb are forcefully preserved in a head which conveys Shaw's eccentricity as well as his visionary fervour. But the sitter recollects from the result, claiming that he looked like a "primitive barbarian" and refusing to have the head in his house when Epstein offered it as a present.

Although Shaw bequeathed a substantial part of his royalties to the National Gallery of Ireland, he showed no great passion for either sculpture or painting. But the camera continued to be a consuming interest, and in 1904 he championed the young American photographer Alvin Langdon Coburn after his arrival in London. Coburn, approaching his peak, rewarded Shaw's enthusiasm by publishing some refined portraits of the playwright in his *Men of Mark* book.

His most arresting studies of Shaw are, however, the least formal. In one audacious 1908 photograph, over half the picture is devoted to the

shadows of branches cast by the evening sun. Their sinewy elongation chimes with the playwright's own figure, resting in a diagonal direction on a tree-trunk as he jots down some notes in a pocket-book.

Equally powerful is an image of Shaw and H.G. Wells. The mood is convivial, with Wells's relaxed face inclining at a jovial angle in his friend's direction. Shaw savours the mellowness as well, but his head remains upright and gazes out of the picture with a more questioning expression.

Did he ever really unwind?

The torrential volume of his output bears all the marks of a workaholic. Even when he posed for Augustus John in 1915, closing his eyes while the session proceeded, the outcome was the opposite of somnolent. Shaw's ruddy features regain all their resolution as he allows the next passage in a play or article to burgeon in his mind. The demand for Shaw's work was by then incessant, and rewarded with remuneration far grander than John commanded. He recalled later that Shaw had exclaimed "when I informed him of my fee", and asked: "Do you mean to say you work for so paltry a sum?" But before John had time to revise his charges, "the cheque was written and handed over".

By this stage, the success of *Pygmalion* had turned Shaw into a towering figure. When Alastair Ritchie gently caricatured him for *Vanity Fair*, he was presented as a cocksure celebrity in a cowboy hat and a long, checked coat. While one eye winks, the other stares out with laser-like sharpness. In his capacious pocket a copy of *Caesar and Cleopatra* is attributed to "Shakespeare".

The award of the Nobel Prize in 1925 gave him still greater stature. Sir Bernard

Partridge's *Punch* portrait of that year depicted Shaw as a supremely assertive figure. With white brows lowered in a commanding frown, he places hands on hips like a headmaster terrifying an unruly pupil. Dame Laura Knight found herself painting him while he sat simultaneously, for the

sculptor Sigismund de Strobl. Conflict arose between the two artists: Knight wanted him to remain still, while de Strobl asked Shaw to adopt a variety of positions. Perhaps the difficulties militated against the painter, who produced an excessively genial, grandfatherly image. "You made me a sincere man," Shaw complained, "and all my life I have been an actor."

In the end, though, even Shaw grew tired of portraiture. When John requested another sitting in 1947, the 91-year-old "sage of Ayot St Lawrence" turned him down. Declaring that he was incapable of posing for half an hour, Shaw pointed out that he was just an elderly man in a white beard. The old show-off was fired out, and had no desire to see his decrepit immortalised on canvas.

● GBS In Close Up continues at the National Portrait Gallery (071-306 0055) until July 5.

Grandfatherly: Dame Laura Knight's oil of GBS, from the collection of the Hereford City Museum & Art Gallery

Decoding the messages from the past

The Royal Shakespeare Company's latest rediscovery among 17th-century plays is *A Jovial Crew*, by Richard Brome, Ben Jonson's servant. Clare Colvin reports

including the celebrated singer Ann Carely (who also sang in *The Beggar's Opera*).

There are historical reasons for its lapse from favour. As RSC's artistic director Adrian Noble says: "People thought that theatre in the Caroline period was like a valley after a great mountain of achievement by Shakespeare, Middleton and Jonson, but there are many treasures which are a crucial link between Shakespeare and Farquhar and Restoration plays."

Max Stafford-Clark, who is directing *Jovial Crew*, sees it as a coded message from the past, written at a time when criticism of the government could not be voiced directly, and the playwright acted as journalist. The story, about two young women who run away from home to join a band of beggars, deals with the growing problems of the homeless at that time. It is, he says, an allegory seeking to raise public consciousness of the irresponsibility of both

Parliament and the King.

Unlike *The Virtuoso*, which is played as written, but cut to under three hours from its original four and a half, *A Jovial Crew* has been re-worked in the second act by Stephen Jeffreys, whose plays include *Valued Friends* and *The Clink*. The songwriter Ian Dury has re-written the lyrics.

"The play sets up a fascinating plot and then withdraws from it," Jeffreys explains. "One senses that Brome was imprisoned by elements of self-

censorship and the second half was a series of set pieces that did not add to the plot. The basic shape is the same, but I have taken the characters he has created and pushed them further. It is like restoring a painting. You try to be faithful to the colours of the original."

What the RSC calls its "discovery" plays are the result of what Noble calls "endless trawls, both collectively and independently". The literary manager or dramaturg, Colin Chambers, has got to the

surfacing of such gems as *The Rover*, written in 1677, *Wild Oats* (1791) and also later neglected plays like *Boucicault's London Assurance* (1841).

Adrian Noble says: "By increasing the number of discovery plays we are building up an audience with an appetite for the brand new experience of an unknown play. It may be in future that somewhere such as the Theatre Chwyd, in Wales, will put on *The Virtuoso* instead of another *School for Scandal*."

● *A Jovial Crew* opens at the Swan Theatre, Stratford (0789 295623), on Tuesday.



Ann Catley sang Rachel in a 1770 production of an operatic version of Richard Brome's *A Jovial Crew*

TELEVISION REVIEW

Everybody needs an expert friend

Peter Noble, charged with rape, faced evidence linking fibres found on the victim to clothing removed from his wardrobe by police. Refused legal aid to challenge the findings, Noble was lucky that his family raised the £3,000 needed for independent advice. The expert they consulted, Dr Angela Gallop of Forensic Access, contested the Home Office evidence, claiming that the fibres were of a common type. After seven months in jail

five years in youth custody. The point made by *Taking Liberties* was that convictions made on the basis of scientific findings cannot be secure unless both prosecution and defence have access to the same science. No ordinary person can form a sensible opinion of the evidential value of a fragment of fibre without an expert witness to interpret it. But if the expert witnesses are all appearing for the prosecution, that leaves the accused in jeopardy.

What is the answer? Independent forensic scientists believe that changes in the legal aid provisions are needed to restore the balance between prosecution and defence. "Science and the law should admit how fallible they can be," reporter David Jessel asserted. It seemed a conclusion amply justified by events.

NIGEL HAWKES

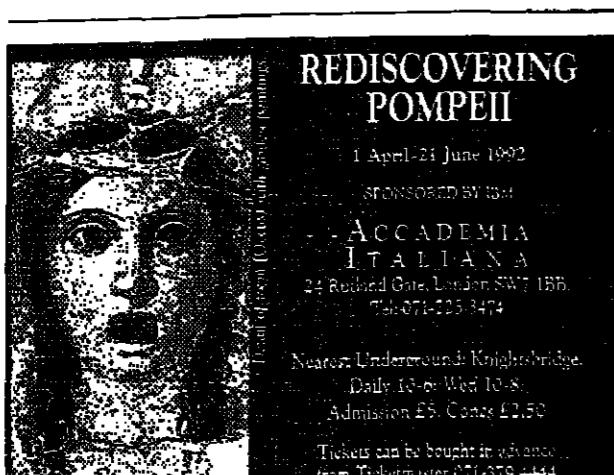
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Sense and sensitivity

'Knowledge-base non possessors' can take comfort in a new guide to the intricacies of political correctness

Let us say you are finely tuned to the nuances of political correctness, the creed of sensitivity that has swept from American universities into the public discourse in the past three years and now across the Atlantic.

You would, for example, never refer to a man in a wheelchair as a handicapped man but as a challenged person. You would always describe a backward schoolgirl as an exceptional child. You would never dream of saying someone was black, preferring African American.

But in using these coinages, correct as recently as a year ago, you would be making thoroughly "inappropriate choices", to use two arch-PC words. You would be committing the sins of "ableism" and racism because the handicapped are now called the differently-abled.

Better still, turn the thought around and refer to the able-bodied as "temporarily abled persons". The schoolgirl, and this is not a joke, should be called an "exceptional pre-woman" because "exceptional" implies exclusion and girl is sexist. On race, non-whites must now be called persons of colour, or more specifically, members of the African diaspora.

When it comes to bending over backwards to avoid offending the sensitivities of "oppressed" groups, which is what the PC mentality is all about, the language police move swiftly, purging any hint of judgment.

Help is on the way for all those who want to avoid being considered "knowledge-base non possessors" (ignorant). Later this month they can turn to *The Official Political Correct Dictionary and Handbook*, a compilation of terms by Henry Beard and Christopher Cerf, to be published by Villard Books in America and by HarperCollins in Britain in December.

The handbook itself violates a cardinal rule of political correctness, the one prohibiting "inappropriately directed laughter". Though tongue in cheek, the book draws on terms from respectable published sources, but many of its entries come from the loomier fringes of animal rights, ecology and feminism.

A few years ago, for example, pet was purged from sensitive discourse in favour of animal companion. That implies "specism" so you should now refer simply to your companion. Wives or girlfriends should be called "unpaid sex workers", and the gender-sensitive should jettison himself and herself ("coself"), a term widely found in feminist writing.

In the fast-expanding field of sexual harassment, the compilers have unearthed such nuggets as "receptive non-initiator", a term used in a New York University text. This is the "man guilty of allowing himself to be seduced by a woman in a subordinate position to himself".

However, the dictionary lists dozens of widely used terms and serves as a useful lesson in the way PC, for all its excesses, colours the way people talk in America and, increasingly, in Britain.

Some of it is merely an extension of the American love

'If a man's speciality is, say, cannibalism, he can be termed a 'person of difficult to meet needs'

son writes unreadable prose in order to identify with the oppressed or those who are simply too "motivationally dispossessed" (lazy) to do otherwise.

The PC culture, springing from the left-wing outlook of the middle-aged academics who dominate the universities, is still well removed from the American mainstream but is making solid inroads. This is because it chimes with the way the country is fleeing from risk and moral judgment into the realm of "victimology". Every guest on a talk show is a survivor of some kind, blaming everything from alcoholism to bankruptcy on negligent parents or low self-esteem.

In Santa Cruz, California, the town council has given provisional approval to another pioneering step: a by-law prohibiting "lookism" in the recruiting of employees. This is designed to protect from discrimination the differently sized (fat), the follicularly challenged (bald), the cosmetically different (ugly) or the plain chronologically gifted (old) and perhaps the charming (boring). The key is avoiding anything that smacks of judgment or hurts the feelings of any member of a minority.

The dottiest extremes of the PC mentality will no doubt eventually succumb to good old American common sense, but not before it has robbed the language of some old-fashioned but healthy words.

CHARLES BRENNER

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Alice Thomson experiences the charm offensive of Gillian Shephard, the new employment minister

John Major's iron lady

ROS DRINKWATER

The security guard was adamant there was no Gillian Shephard in the employment department. He looked the name up in the directory, she wasn't there. "I think she is your new minister," I said. "Mike, who's our new boss?" he shouted. "A woman," Mike shouted back. "I think she's called Shephard."

Engulfed in her vast new offices on the sixth floor the diminutive Mrs Shephard is highly amused. "Nobody knows me," she says delightedly. "Why should they? I just tell people I'm the one that looks like Edwina Currie."

With her snappy suit, comically arched eyebrows and bouffant hairstyle, the new Minister of Employment does bear a startling physical resemblance to her colleague.

Mrs Shephard is one of two women to be promoted by John Major to his new cabinet. An MP for only five years, her rise has been swift and largely overlooked by the public. She was a key member of Mr Major's leadership team and became the highest ranking woman ever in the Treasury when she was made a minister of state. She has consistently been singled out for praise by Mr Major and was given a prominent role during the election campaign as the deputy party chairman, chairing some of the daily press conferences.

While at Conservative Central Office she kept the young Turks going on take-away pizzas and insisted on eating in the canteen. Her constituents in Norfolk fondly recount how she managed to get the entire village of Marham double glazed at public expense against warplane noise. Her colleagues say she will always use the handbook notes.

The compilers call the process the Whorf-Sapir hypothesis,

after Benjamin Lee Whorf and Edward Sapir, two academics who argued that "before we can change a pattern of behaviour, we must change the terms which relate to it".

At the heart of PC lies the dogma of diversity, the idea that America needs new language to break from a culture

shaped by DWEMs (dead white European males) and still dominated by the "white patriarchy". This leads the handbook to advise avoiding using terms such as "academic freedom", a DWEM notion if ever there was one.

The prevailing duty of a university teacher is not to express his or her case but to create a better world, according to the PC view.

The true PC person writes unreadable prose in order to identify with the oppressed or those who are simply too "motivationally dispossessed" (lazy) to do otherwise.

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CHARLES BRENNER

Autism denies its victims normal human contact. Now a sufferer has described her remote, inner world

Donna Williams has her own set of rules for interviews. First she must meet the reporter the day before, preferably in a quiet, green place. No "interview" questions must be asked: small-talk only. Then she must be faxed a list of questions, to which she sends long written replies. At no time must the interviewer shake hands, crack jokes, show emotion, use metaphors, vary their tone or switch topics suddenly. Otherwise Ms Williams may become stressed and run for it. Add to these conditions the normal hectic juggling of schedules imposed by a publisher convinced it has a hot property, and she is not the only one who gets stressed.

But Ms Williams, a 29-year-old Australian, is worth it. And her conditions are as reasonable as it's a normal interviewee should ask reporters not to hit her, sob, shout questions in Chinese. Normal subjects do not have to make such stipulations because their social and verbal perceptions are those of the majority. Ms Williams' are not. To her a handshake is an ordeal, the emotion of others a threat, and elliptic sentences a garble. She is autistic, severely so, and has written a book about her life.

To my question on how she sees new people she replied: "Their language is difficult to follow and miles away and their movements anywhere from distracting to annoying to frightening." Crowds overload her entirely. "Sometimes the meaning drops out of things and what I see or hear is reduced to basic colour, shape, pattern and sound."

Autism is a strange, barely understood abnormality apparent from infancy in four children in every 10,000. Sufferers cannot process information properly, particularly human expressions, allusions and gestures. Autistic children

typically avoid eye contact, hate being touched, and show no emotion except fits of rage. A puzzle or a pattern absorbs them utterly, but conversation is met with parrot repetition or with silence. Despite their frequent great intelligence, they are desperately hard to get along with: their stiff chilliness baffles sometimes alienates their parents.

But Ms Williams has written about the process from the other side: right from the moment in her cot when the air was full of lovely patterns and "people would walk by obstructing my magic view of nothingness". Her inability to communicate and co-operate was met in her working-class Melbourne home with violence and abuse from her mother. "How can I blame her when all efforts to reach me resulted in self-abuse because I wanted no one near me? When the only way she could find to stop me from stopping trying to tear my skin off with my teeth was to hit me?"

At school she was perceived as intelligent but devoid of sense, and found rules incomprehensible: tell her not to draw on the wall and she would stop, but start again in a moment because in her logic only the earlier moment contained the prohibition. In her teens she became a sexual victim in return for shelter. "I hadn't even reached the stage where I realised my body belonged to me. I took it as coincidence that it was stuck on me... I suffered abuse at the hands of a well-intentioned but ignorant foster mother practising hug therapy, and men capitalised on my having been taught to tolerate touch in spite of it making me ill."

She learnt to conceal herself behind two personas: "Willie", the rebel child, who attacked the world back and "Carol", a

giggling and complaisant extrovert. She ran through a series of jobs, sometimes dissatisfied (as a machinist she put buttonholes all over a fur coat, not realising they had to go in any particular place); sometimes with success. Her passion for arranging things made her a wonderful stockroom assistant in a department store.

In her twenties she gradually identified herself as Donna, complete with limitations. She does not look abnormal. Arriving for my first meeting, I find a slight girl in tartan slacks with a constant air of being poised for flight. By appalling misfortune, on her first evening in London Ms

Williams's room was burgled. She might, warned her publisher, be more stressed than usual. Actually, she is fine and makes perfect sense.

The burglary seems to have touched her less than a normal person; perhaps if good-fellowship is a mystery to you, wickedness hits less near the heart. "You've had bad fortune," I say as we walk out. "And much good fortune too. You cannot have one without the other." Ms Williams says, leading the way to the park with light, dancing steps. Her extreme literalness makes for these gnomic utterances. Once you learn to speak in simple

linear sentences, as if translating from Latin, conversation is not too difficult. But "I don't understand the thing they call manners", she says. "It makes no sense at all." Her own questions have the directness of a child's.

Facts are easiest. So in the park we discuss ice-houses, ducks, why camels spit (she likes camels because she too spits when angry), and other restfully concrete subjects. Ms Williams shows encyclopedic, eclectic factual knowledge of everything from the pH level of swimming pools to the sex of trees. She would make a formidable scientist.

She stops by a sculpture. "She could practise on him."

thrilled," she says. "Clearly, if you're offered anything in the cabinet you must be delighted but when I saw in the manifesto that this job was going to be enhanced by the addition of jobs to do with women I thought 'goodness, how very interesting'. Then there is all the employment law, the reform of the industrial relations act, sex discrimination, race discrimination, industrial tribunals..."

Mrs Shephard wasted no time in getting down to work. On Sunday she immediately summoned her officials for a meeting and made clear she wasn't going to waste her time promoting "artificial initiatives which don't mean anything. I don't forget that people of both sexes are out of work and that's a horrible thing for themselves and their families," she says. "What we want is for the economy to start turning again so that jobs come back, because only business can actually create jobs. In the meantime our priority must be to supply good training."

On what she describes as "women's issues", Mrs Shephard will look to improving childcare, although she does not believe that this alone is the key to better opportunities. "What really matters is increasing women's confidence, whether they are about to enter the jobs market or returning after having a family," she says. "I suffered a real loss of identity when I gave up work and I found it very difficult returning. I had gone from a position where I had a secretary and staff to a job where I was the staff and doing the photocopying and dogsbodying."

She would also like to see more women in the House of Commons and is close friends with women members as diverse as the Conservative Anne Widdecombe, with whom she shared an office, and Labour's Clare Short. She finds some of her male colleagues' barracking behaviour demeaning. "I don't think we have got nearly enough women in yet. If we get more it will make a difference to behaviour, there's no doubt about it," she says.

Of her fellow female cabinet minister, Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary, she comments: "I admire her ability, I admire her looks enormously, she's just marvellous to look at isn't she? It's just great to have her zooming about looking tremendous." No male colleague would dare to say this in public.

In the cabinet she feels ideologically closest to Mr Major. "He sees that you have to bring people round slowly to your way of thinking, have sound economic policies and keep a firm grip on public spending," she says.

She is also polite about Michael Heseltine's "dazzling" role in the election, but one feels that isn't quite her style. She doesn't think he's ends are more conscious of getting a healthy balance in life because they have come into politics later. It's a phase in your life, not your whole life," she says. "There is a tendency for ministers to get taken over which I will resist."

Considering she has always been crowded, so she understands balance and is not worried about taking on the employment department, dealing with local constituency affairs and spending time with her husband. "Women are more conscious of getting a healthy balance in life because they have come into politics later. It's a phase in your life, not your whole life," she says. "There is a tendency for ministers to get taken over which I will resist."

She is off to see the Queen to be made a privy councillor. "My father is thrilled," she says. "I've just realised that I will be the right honourable for the rest of my life, that's rather nice don't you think, rather a boost."



She was only a farmer's daughter: Gillian Shephard's background gave no clue to her inner steel

rather embarrassed at her forthrightness.

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Being with people. See, you could poke your finger in his eye and nothing's changed."

Then an unsolicited memory from her childhood: her angry mother used to try to prove herself. Ms Williams says, giving her dolls. "I hated them. The more my mother hated me the bigger the dolls got." I observe that I hated dolls too and threw mine out of a ship's porthole. Ms Williams hugely approves of this, and I try a small bridge between us by saying that nobody should expect any child to like conventional things. "If the child says no—" "Ah!" Ms Williams says. "But I couldn't say, couldn't tell anyone..." It is a nightmare glimpse of her glassed-off world.

Once she helped an autistic child in a home by pushing aside the carer who was thrusting a doll at her, and offering instead a hairbrush to stroke repetitively: "Dolls stare at you. Their faces expect something. A hairbrush doesn't do that. It just goes 'prrrr' and soothes you."

At the end of the walk we have reached a reasonable accommodation. Next day, we meet again. I look at her seldom and briefly. "If people look" she says, "their face is saying I order you to look at me." Her newest achievement is friendship: "My friendships are not just empty symbols of normality any more. I have gone from sharing nothing to sharing words, from sharing words to sharing facts, from facts to thoughts and now I am trying to share feelings. Now I must learn how to link my feelings to words and expressions. It is a new world."

She is reaching out towards the world with more intelligence than it ever used in trying to reach her. For that she should be honoured.

LIBBY PURVES

Nobody Nowhere by Donna Williams is published by Doubleday (£14.99)

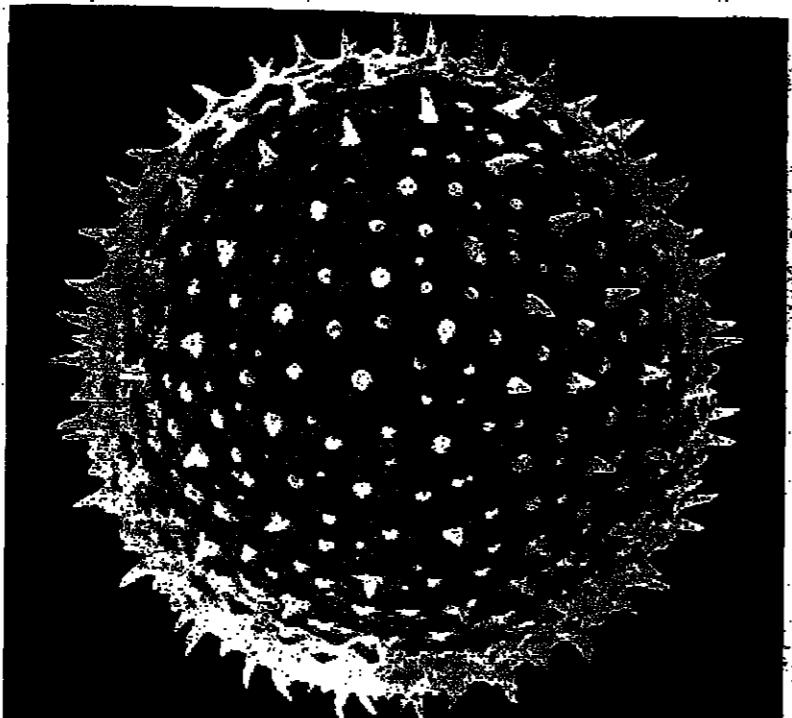
"Willie": the young rebellious persona

"Carol": the extrovert who could smile

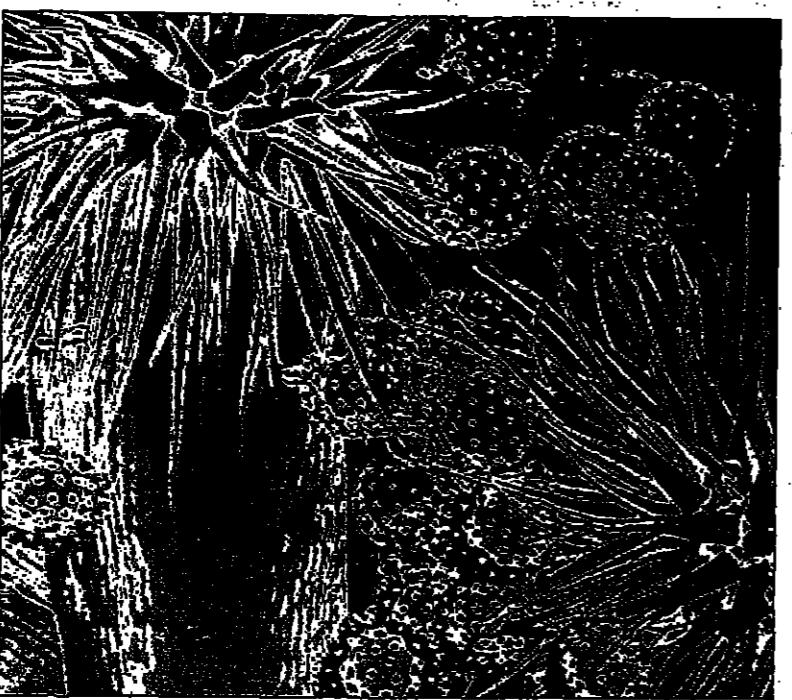
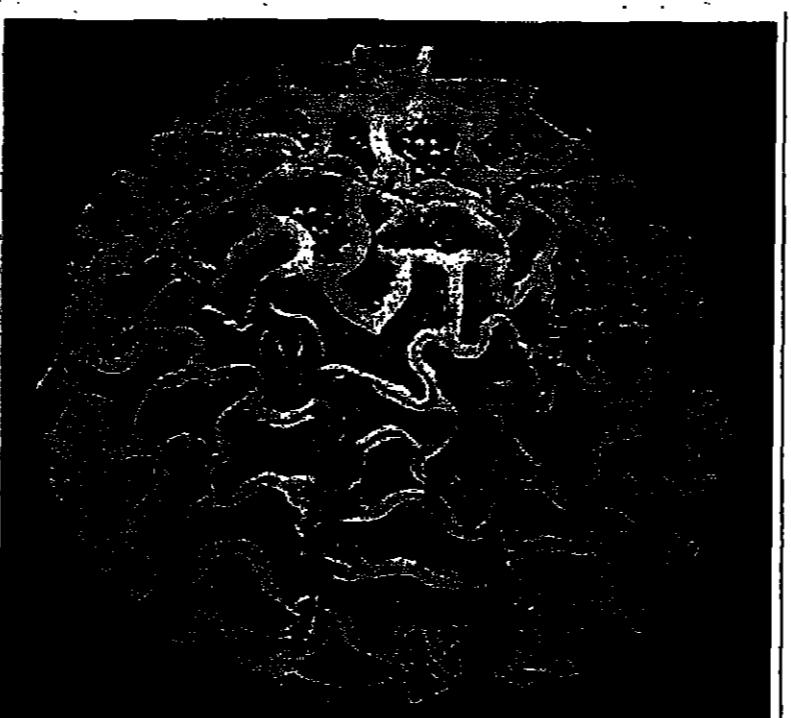
Three faces of Donna: in her late twenties she gradually identified with her real self

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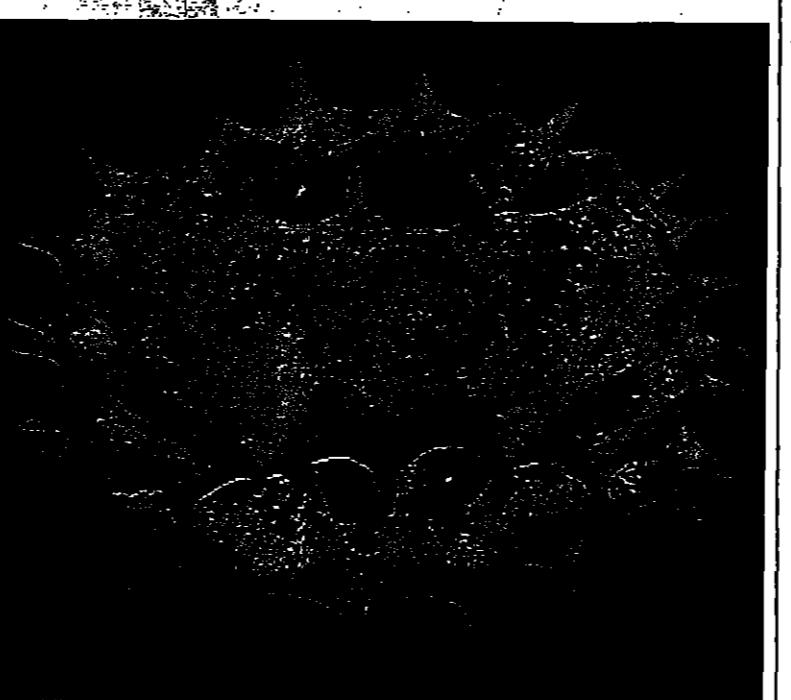
The burglary seems to have touched her less than a normal person;



Summer madness: a tiny pollen grain from the garden hollyhock, left, or passion flower make the season miserable for those who are allergic



No way out: pollen grains from the Venice Mallow flower, left, and pot marigold make it impossible for people with allergies to open windows



Rash reaction

Jeremy Laurance considers growing interest in allergies and a new report on treatment

Last year, Anne, a 41-year-old single mother living on income support, paid a private dentist £600 to remove all the fillings in her teeth because she believed she was allergic to the mercury in the amalgam. She stayed in a private allergy clinic for two weeks, where she was put on a Vitamin C drip to help her recover from the anaesthetics. The bill there came to £4,000.

She returned to the clinic in January for further vitamins and minerals and a course of "vaccines" to control her allergies. The bill came to £2,000.

Her treatment was paid for by two local charities. She says she is better because she can do "almost all" the housework. But she is still unable to work or to leave the house and has to sleep every afternoon. Her GP has given her a 12-month sick note.

Anne was diagnosed five years ago as "allergic to everything" by the same clinic. "NHS doctors said I was neurotic and depressed. I was labelled with everything. Social workers threatened to take my son away. Only when I went to the clinic were my allergies unmasked."

Although she found the diagnosis comforting, life since then has been far from easy. "I can't even open the windows because of the pollen in summer and the mouse spores in winter," she said. "I once counted that I had 80 symptoms and I can link them to at least 100 things that cause them. It's a dreadful existence. It's a struggle every day to keep your sanity."

Her nine-year-old son's health is deteriorating and he is missing school on an average of a day a week. "He is not coping emotionally," she said.

Cases like Anne's have alarmed specialists in the field. Allergies are increasing and awareness of them is growing. This is putting pressure on already overstressed National Health Service clinics. As a result, people with allergies are being forced to seek help from private clinics and fringe practitioners, who may make matters worse.

In response to the growing concern, the Royal College of Physicians this week published a report comparing conventional and alternative treatment of allergy. It is critical of the treatment offered by some fringe practitioners and their "false and misleading" claims.

Dental costs in France are so high that people are coming to Britain for their treatment

Visits that are double agony

The French live in fear of dentists, not so much because of the pain but because of the cost. Exorbitant charges mean they visit the dentist only when absolutely necessary, and avoid regular check-ups. British nationals resident in France, shocked at dental costs, are travelling back to Britain in the holidays for treatment; and increasing numbers of French are taking day trips to England for theirs, for which they are reimbursed through French social security and *Mutuel*, a private health scheme.

France Rubel from Calais says: "Dental treatment in England is about a quarter of French prices and I also benefit through almost total reimbursements in France."

Matthew Wallis, a British teacher working in Paris, was recently quoted FF120,000 (£2,000) for a replacement tooth, two crowns and two

fillings. Mr Wallis checked other dentists and found the price was normal. One even quoted FF128,000. "It was a nasty shock," Mr Wallis said. "Fortunately a British dentist is prepared to do the work for about FF14,000 during the school holiday period."

At present, 6,000 British teachers are employed in France. One of them, Stephen Childs, who has been working in Versailles for eight years, says: "At first I paid up. Now I just arrange like most other teachers to have dental check-ups in England during the holiday period."

Teachers are not the only ones to feel the pinch. Brian Ford, a manager for a transport company based in Lille, admits he has continued having check-ups and treatments with his London dentist because it is much cheaper.

Curiously, cleaning teeth in France has a low priority. A government health survey last year showed that 40 per cent of French people did not clean their teeth every day because it was considered unimportant.

Each French worker pays 5.9 per cent of his or her salary towards medical and dental care. This ensures a third of

diagnosis of allergy prevents people obtaining the therapy that can help them. Many patients are sad, distressed people going through life crises."

He warned that people could be harmed by being given the wrong diagnosis and treatment. "If a patient has a genuine allergy it is potentially lethal to test for it by injecting an extract of the substance under the skin. I know of a case where a patient suffered a life-threatening reaction."

The report dismisses the techniques of homeopathy, clinical ecology, hair analysis, and kinesiology as having no scientific foundation. It gives credence to only two alternative treatments: hypnosis and herbal remedies, with a half-hearted endorsement of acupuncture.

Hypnosis can affect allergic reactions and may have a role in helping the asthmatic, it says. Similar effects have been claimed for acupuncture.

The report also accepts that traditional Chinese medicinal plants have been shown to help children with eczema.

About 10 per cent of people suffer genuine allergies but many more believe they have them, and become angry and upset when this is denied by conventional doctors.

One in six people is estimated to suffer from allergies. Hay fever and asthma, the most common, are increasing. This is thought to be because of rising pollution, centrally-heated, dusty houses, and greater awareness among doctors. Multiple allergy to food and other substances is rare.

Patients who attend some private allergy clinics may, however, be tested less rigorously. Treatment can amount to "brainwashing", according to Dr David Pearson, director of the NHS allergy clinic at Withington Hospital, Manchester.

"You inject the patients with something that makes them sick as a dog and then give them another that makes them better and you suggest all the time that they've got the allergy and you've got the cure — so they go on to develop a Pavlovian response," he said. "There is very positive evidence that giving a false

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Patients who attend some private

allergy clinics may, however, be tested less rigorously. Treatment can amount to "brainwashing", according to Dr David Pearson, director of the NHS

allergy clinic at Withington Hospital, Manchester.

"You inject the patients with something that makes them sick as a dog and then give them another that makes them better and you suggest all the time that they've got the allergy and you've got the cure — so they go on to develop a Pavlovian response," he said. "There is

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Propaganda or the simple truth?

Ann Kent reports
on what women
can expect when
taking HRT

Three hundred women had filed into Church House, Westminster in central London to find out about the menopause, and now one of them stood up to ask a question. "What happens if you stop taking HRT? Do you just fall apart?"

The audience, mainly intelligent, middle-aged and middle-class, were not surprised by the question. Women are drenched in information about hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and the menopause, but all too often it comes in the form of propaganda.

Teresa Gorman, the MP who founded the Amaran Trust to promote HRT, has said: "I know from my own experience that it [HRT] can do more to improve the quality of your life... than pots of expensive face cream, a holiday in Spain or a complete new wardrobe of clothes."

Opponents of the treatment, such as Germaine Greer, believe women should feel free to age with dignity, accepting the physical consequences. "A grown woman should not have to masquerade as a girl in order to remain in the land of the living," she wrote in her book about the menopause, *The Change*.

Val Godfree, the deputy medical director of the Amaran Trust, tried to reassure the woman who wondered about the effects of stopping HRT. "A large number of ladies take HRT for a short period of time and then come off it. They don't fall apart, but their bones will lose their strength and the risk of heart disease rises," she said.

In fact, the effect of stopping HRT after a few years is to put a woman at the same risk of the bone thinning condition, osteoporosis, and heart disease as she would have been if she had never taken HRT at all.

The menopause conference last week was organised by the National Council of Women after a survey of its members revealed that 62 per cent wanted more information about the menopause.

Female hormones are often discussed at medical conferences, usually by male medical experts talking to other men. The questions asked at this meeting were sharper and more relevant because the women were interested in tinkering with drug formulations, but in whether it was safe for them to use, how long they could take it, and whether the NHS could afford to provide it for them.

Side effects of HRT, described as "rare" at medical conferences, could not be easily swept aside here, as the sufferers stood up to tell of problems such as painful breasts, putting on two stones in weight in two months or zig zags in front of their eyes.

The Amaran Book of Hormone Replacement Therapy stresses the way HRT can slow the ageing process, but the revitalising, feel-good factor which is so often attributed to HRT was not mentioned at the meeting. Those who asked questions were more interested in health than in dreams of eternal youth.



HRT proponent: Teresa Gorman set up the Amaran Trust and says the therapy can only help

'I know that HRT can do more to improve the quality of life than a holiday in Spain'

Teresa Gorman

week's conference could not agree on the relative risks and benefits of HRT. "If there is an increase in risk, it is a small one which is considerable," Dr Godfree said. But Dr Jean Coope, a Cheshire GP who provides HRT for her patients on the NHS, believes the risk increases significantly after around ten years of treatment. After five or six years on hormone replacement, Dr Coope sends her patients for a mammogram before renewing the prescription.

Mr Tony Parsons, a consultant gynaecologist and the chairman of the Menopause Society, believes women need to be on HRT for at least two years to benefit from it, but agrees that after about ten years the risk increases.

According to Mr Parsons, the statisticians have concluded that, at worst, of 100,000 women on HRT for 15 years, 187 more would die from breast cancer than those not taking hormones. However, this had to be set against the expected reductions in osteoporosis and heart disease fatalities. Among women on HRT, deaths resulting from a fractured hip are estimated



HRT opponent: Germaine Greer believes that women should feel free to mature with dignity

'A woman should not have to masquerade as a girl to remain in the land of the living'

Germaine Greer

to drop by 563 and from heart disease by 5,250.

So what would Mr Parsons tell a close female relative who wanted to use HRT longer than ten years? "I would certainly want to explain the uncertainties," he said. "People vary greatly in their reactions.

Some women will have nothing to do with any treatment which involves even the slightest risk of breast cancer. Someone who has nursed a relative who has had a stroke or hip fracture may look at it quite differently."

Another puzzling aspect of HRT is why its adherents focus on its ability to stop bones from thinning when only one woman in four is susceptible to osteoporosis. Suggesting that all women take hormones would appear to be the equivalent of dosing everyone in an office with antibiotics when only one of them has an ear infection.

Mr Parsons suggested that women considering HRT might have a bone scan to see if they are one of the unlucky 25 per cent, although they may well have to get this done privately. Alternatively, they may share his view that the

protection offered against heart attacks and strokes is enough in itself to justify the use of HRT.

However, Mr Parsons accepted that many women do not really like hormone replacement therapy. So what are the alternatives?

Dr Ignac Fogelman, a consultant physician and bone-scanning expert from Guy's Hospital, London, quickly punctured hopes

on middle-aged do-it-yourself bone-building. "Diet and exercise are important in adolescence, but jogging round the block and filling yourself with calcium are a joke at 50. They won't touch menopausal bone loss," he said. "For that you need HRT."

At the end of the conference my own feeling was that hormone replacement was acceptable, at least for the first ten years. However, this was not a unanimous view. The audience left the conference better-informed but not necessarily converted to the treatment. Perhaps the generation of women who road-tested what we now regard as a very high-dose Pill is not prepared for further experimentation.

Or it may be that Mr Parsons hit on the real problem. He said it takes half an hour to discuss hormone replacement properly with a patient who already knows something about the subject. Most doctors don't have the time, and many women are rightly suspicious of the busy medic whose only treatment is a briskly written prescription.

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The latest statistics from the Office of Population, Census and Surveys published in 1988, show that only half of all babies are breast-fed beyond two weeks.

Sixty-nine per cent of first-time mothers now try breast-feeding, although many choose to bottle feed second and subsequent children. Breast-feeding counsellor Mary Small, whose book *The National Childbirth Trust Book of Breastfeeding* is to be published by Ebury Press later in the year, is concerned that mothers who bottle-feed should not feel that they have failed.

She says: "While I can't personally believe that an artificial substitute can be better, it is certainly the case that middle-class mothers are at least as intensely pressurised into breast-feeding these days."

"No baby will benefit from a mother who hates every minute of breast-feeding. Career mothers have been made guilty if they hurry back to work rather than continuing to breast-feed – but the statistics show that stay-at-home mothers are, if anything, more likely to bottle-feed after a couple of weeks."

Dr Mike Winridge, of the Breastfeeding Clinical Support Service at Bristol University, says: "I would love to be able to tell mothers that their babies will be more intelligent if they are breast-fed – but at the moment the evidence we need is just not there."

"As a zoologist, I implicitly believe that breast must be best, but there are simply no studies that show an overwhelming long-term advantage either in terms of health, intelligence or personality. The studies carried out so far assume a cause-and-effect – but for all we know, there may be no actual correlation at all."

LIZ HODGKINSON

Judging the milk of humankind

Researchers have suggested that breast-feeding may make brighter children. What should mothers believe?

Breast is best. Breast-feeding is natural and delivers exactly the right food at the optimum temperature. It creates a loving bond between mother and child and delivers immunity from illness and infection. It also, according to the latest research, gives children a valuable intelligence boost.

This is what new mothers are told these days – but is it all true? In recent weeks, there has been a world-wide debate raging among doctors and scientists as to whether there are magical ingredients contained in breast milk which confer superior intelligence.

The recent findings of Dr Alan Lucas and his team at the Dunn Clinical Nutrition Centre in Cambridge and published in *The Lancet*, seemed to show that, at eight years old, children who had been given breast milk at birth – whether or not they were actually breast-fed – did better in IQ tests than those given formula feeds.

This extra intelligence seemed to be due to something in the milk, rather than whether the parents were more intelligent or gave more attention.

Dr Lucas' conclusions, based on a sample of 926 premature babies, were hotly disputed by other researchers. Two large-scale studies one carried out in Melbourne, Australia, and the other at Wayne State University, Detroit, in the United States,

found that breast-fed children were brighter than the bottle-fed, but concluded that these differences were solely attributable to the greater intelligence and superior parenting of mothers who breast-feed.

In other words, these researchers could find no magic IQ factor in the milk alone. But the implication of these three studies is clear: mothers who really care about the intelligence and well-being of their children will never shove a bottle in their mouths.

During the 1960s, when the fashion for bottle-feeding was at its height, new mothers had to struggle to be allowed to breast-feed their hospital-born babies. All has changed. Thanks to intense campaigning by the National Childbirth Trust's (NCT) Breastfeeding Promotion Group, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, and also the American La Leche League, breast-feeding is encouraged at every turn.

The La Leche League is particularly militant about breast-feeding, with its insistence that feeding should be completely baby-led, and continue until the child wishes to stop. This means that it is not all unusual for toddlers and even two and three year olds still to be breast-fed.

Any new mother who finds breast-feeding difficult or who is not sure she wants to become a 24-hour milk-dispensing machine will soon contact, free of charge a breast-feeding counsellor, who will

compelling evidence that breast milk itself enhances the intellectual development of premature babies – but no actual proof.

"We simply don't know whether there is any similar benefit for full-term babies, as we have never carried out any such studies. There seem to be strong health advantages of breast milk for pre-term in-



Breast and brain: no-one yet knows if breast milk enhances the intellectual development of full-term babies

fants, but all may be different for full-term babies.

"There is as yet, no hard evidence whatever that bottle-feeding in the West damages babies in any way, or puts them at a disadvantage."

Shirleyanne Seel, the deputy head of policy at the National Childbirth Trust, has been a breast-feeding counsellor for many years. She says: "Re-

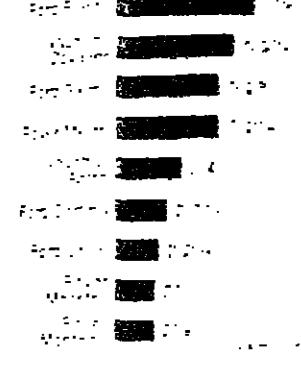
search undertaken two years ago clearly showed that breast-fed babies suffer less from gastroenteritis, but evidence for long-term benefits is much less clear cut."

In fact, a paper in *The Lancet* in May 1988, said there was little evidence to suggest that breast milk did confer any significant long-term health benefits to babies.

"At the same time," Ms Seel says, "we feel it is the baby's right to be fed with the best possible food." She confirmed that it is mainly the older, middle-class mothers opting for the breast. "Although at the NCT we are working hard to change the overwhelmingly middle-class image that breast-feeding continues to have."

THE TIMES FRIDAY
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Court of Appeal

Esteem and affection for LCJ

Valedictory to Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Sir Stephen Brown, President, Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice Chancellor, Lord Justice Watkins and more than 60 members of the Court of Appeal and High Court Judges.

[April 15]

Court 4, the Lord Chief Justice's Court was crammed with members of the Bar and visitors.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the court was sitting in banc. While sitting might not be quite the right word, they certainly were in banc. Certainly structural anxieties had been aroused by the weight of authority, nearly five tons of it.

Although traditionally the full-time judiciary behaved like Trapist monks when it came to giving public expression of their feelings towards their brother judges, his Lordship could, for the first time, cast aside his wows and on behalf of the judges speak publicly of the admiration and affection in which they held Lord Lane.

He could give voice to the anger and disgust which they had felt at the campaign of calumny waged against Lord Lane in recent months.

Some confusion of thought was observed from reading the newspapers after announcement of the impending retirement. Judges, it appeared should be required to retire at the age of 70 if not earlier. But a Lord Chief Justice who decided to retire just before his 74th birthday was apparently "taking early retirement".

It was over 25 years since Lord Lane had been appointed to the High Court bench. Some lawyers now in active practice were yet unborn. At least two members of the High Court bench had yet to be called to the Bar. If Lord Lane was taking early retirement they needed a new dictionary.

It was 12 years ago to the day that Lord Lane was sworn in as Lord Chief Justice.

He had been faced with formidable problems. The Criminal Division and Crown Office lists were in a state of some disarray.

There was widespread criticism of inconsistencies in sentencing. There were anxieties as to the growing prison population.

Lord Lane had set about solving those problems with skill, tact and determination. He presided over the creation of the very efficient Criminal Division administrative structure which he had today. He called for custodial sentences to be not a day longer than was necessary. He urged judges to be short and to the point and set them an example.

Perhaps most important of all, he set in train a series of guideline decisions on sentencing policy so essential if consistency of treatment was to be achieved.

He had been party to many decisions which would continue to shape the criminal law and its administration for years to come. He had given substance to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, providing vital safeguards for those suspected of crime, had defined the concept of dishonesty in cases under the Theft Act 1968, reaffirmed the supremacy of the jury and, more recently, was the decisive step in modernising the law on rape in marriage.

In addition to all that, his 12 years in office had seen a quite astonishing increase in his administrative workload, not least because of his personal responsibility for undertaking the review of life sentences.

Despite all that, he had kept an open door for judges and others who wanted advice or assistance. Many would think that his letters patent of appointment should have contained a government health warning, but despite everything he had succeeded in retaining his full intellectual and physical vigour.

He had also retained his sense of humour. None of their Lordships would ever forget that *audi alteram partem* was legal Latin for "foreign cars need other parts".

The Master of the Rolls had no doubt that Lord Lane, like all judges, regarded exposure to public criticism as an occupational hazard. He would be the first to agree that, if the critics based themselves on facts, eschewed the language of hindsight, such criticism was valuable.

But what had outraged all of those present was the spectacle of amazement to Lord Lane the scapegoat for failures of the criminal justice system, the cause of which, however defined, lay outside his control or responsibility.

The process had gone far beyond the point at which it could be excused as confusion of thought.

Such baseless accusations had not only to be wounded to Lord Lane but also, and perhaps particularly, to Lady Lane. He, she and their family could look back on his judicial career with great pride.

In the eyes of the profession there were judges and great men. Lord Lane's place would be found in the latter category. On behalf of the Bench the Master of the Rolls wished Lord Lane a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, appearing, *inter alia*, for himself and the Solicitor-general, Mr Derek Spencer QC, said that it was freely recognised, sometimes misconstrued, that in our system a case could be only justly decided on the basis of the evidence before the court.

Certain items of profit were that

What Lord Lane's brethren saw but a wider public seldom saw was his immense hard work early morning, late nights, long weekends, hours of reading in the car, exemplifying that those who performed well in the highest offices bore indeed the heaviest burdens.

As Lord Lane laid down his collar of office, the hope of them all was that he would never become the judge and, more recently, his Lady Lane, that he would stay among their Lordships and that the incisiveness and the humour and the twinkle in his eye both remained and which he gladly relinquished.

The loss items were more on the personal side and were severe. He failing to keep his never failing help and kindness, he thought he could say friendship of the staff in the Royal Courts of Justice.

No Chief Justice had ever had a better team of judges than Lord Lane had had over the past 12 years, 12 years to the day as it happened. Few people outside the building realised the time and effort expended by the Queen's Bench judges and their Family Division brethren on extra-mural administrative duties, quite apart from their work in court.

Above all he owed an unrepayable debt of gratitude to Lord Justice Watkins, Tasker, without whose labours as Deputy Chief Justice his job would have been impossible, or even more impossible.

That work of the judges had for much of the time been carried out against a background of orchestrated and ill-informed attacks on the judiciary and their independence.

Too few people realised that judicial independence was the one thing that stood between John Cope and the subversion of power governments of whatever colour. Unhappily, it was only when that independence had been finally eroded, that its true value was appreciated.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY, Mr Philip Eby, said that he rose on the present occasion not in order to read out a formal agreed statement but, with leave to add a few remarks that he knew would be endorsed by the members of his branch of the profession.

The true measure of the esteem and respect in which Lord Lane was held was best discussed in what others said of him.

One of the greatest privileges of being president was that it created a unique opportunity to visit and speak to solicitors, members of the Bar and of the judiciary at their stations in various parts of the country.

He assured Lord Lane that the terms which had been expressed today in gratitude and admiration for him were even more frequently heard outside London.

THE LORD CHIEF JUDGE, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, appearing, *inter alia*, for himself and the Solicitor-general, Mr Derek Spencer QC, said that undeserved compliments were always so much sweeter than the legitimate sort.

On a more personal note, he had been working out a sort of remuneration balance sheet, or profit and loss account.

Regina v Calver

Where an assault was indecent in itself, the basic intent sufficient to establish assault was enough; it was not necessary to establish a specific intent.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Hilditch) so held on April 1 in dismissing an application by Rodney George Culver against his conviction at Norwich Crown Court (Judge Watford and a jury) on April 14, 1991, for the indecent assault of a girl aged eight. He appealed on the ground, *inter alia*, that the judge had erred in directing the jury that drunkenness was no defence to the charge of indecent assault or relevant to his guilt.

The law before Court remained the law and indecent assault remained an offence of basic intent. The issue was simply whether with intent the appellant did what was alleged. A defence of voluntary intoxication did not arise and his inability to remember could not affect his responsibility.

Regina v Calver

Lord Justice Woolf said that while in *R v Court* (1989) AC 28 whether what had happened amounted to an indecent assault or not turned on the motive and therefore the specific intent had been necessary to the verdict, in the instant case, there was no question as to whether what had occurred was indecent or not so that the basic intent was sufficient.

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Regina v Calver

Law Report April 17 1992

Flat transfer not by purchase

Mansukhani v Sharkey

Before Lord Justice Fox and Mr Justice Hollings [Judgment April 15]

Where parents transferred their interest in a flat to their son in consideration of mutual love and affection but subject to a covenant by the son to keep up mortgage instalments on the flat, the transaction was not one of purchase for the purposes of case 9 of Part I of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mahesh Narain Mansukhani, from Judge Harris who, in Westminster County Court on July 9, 1991 had ordered, on a preliminary point of law, that the plaintiff was not entitled to rely on case 9 in his claim against the defendant, Linda Sharkey, for possession of a flat in Broadwick Street, Westminster.

Case 9 provides that one ground for granting possession against a statutory tenant is "where the dwelling house is reasonably required by the landlord for occupation as a residence for — (a) himself ... and the

landlord did not become landlord by purchasing the dwelling house..."

Mr Jonathan Gaunt, QC and Mr Harry Trustor for the plaintiff; Mr Kim Lewison, QC and Mr Martin Westgarth for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that the plaintiff's parents bought the flat in 1984 with the assistance of a £15,000 loan from a building society. In 1985 they let the flat to the defendant and others and in October 1986 the defendant became a statutory tenant.

In 1989 the parents transferred the flat to the plaintiff "in consideration of mutual love and affection and of the covenants heretofore contained".

The plaintiff covenanted with the building society and the parents to pay all money due to the society under its charge and to perform all borrower's covenants contained therein, and in addition, with the parents, to indemnify them against any claims by the building society.

The judge treated the plaintiff's liability to discharge the sum remaining owing under the mortgage, £14,000, as the consideration for the transfer and held that the plaintiff had acquired the

flat by purchase accordingly.

His Lordship did not agree with that analysis. There was no evidence to suggest that the parties negotiated the transfer as a sale in a technical fashion: *Thomas v Fryer* (1970) 1 WLR 845) and after the transfer the plaintiff had been asked when he had purchased the flat, he would have replied: "I did not purchase it. It was a gift from my parents."

The crucial matter was the nature of the property. Because it was mortgaged, some arrangement had to be come to as to who was to bear the burden of the obligation under the mortgage.

The arrangement was that the plaintiff should. That only meant that the parents said, in effect, "We will give you the flat but you must take the burdens as well as the benefit."

The fact that a donee of land entered into some indemnity covenant with the donor in the deed of gift did not by itself indicate a sale.

The transaction was a gift and not a purchase.

Mr Justice Hollings agreed.

Solicitors: Brian Hillman, Trivedi & Co; Palmer's Green; Ms Wilma Morrison.

Drug experiment sentencing

Regina v Couzens

Before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Rock and Mr Justice Wright [Judgment April 13]

When sentencing defendants for producing a small quantity of a controlled Class A drug by means of an experimental therapy, the judge was entitled to take into account that the purpose of the experimentation here with the production of

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (48456) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (8007475)
 7.15 Fairy Tales, Goldilocks and the Three Bears (r) (4260974) 7.20 Peep and the Big Wide World. Cartoon (r) (2842185) 7.35 Cuckoolin. Cartoon (8435089)
- 8.00 News, regional news and weather (16700475) 8.15 Henry's Cat (r) (953017) 8.20 Favourite Songs (s) (7980456) 8.45 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) (1101949)
- 9.00 News, regional news and weather (337284) 9.05 Defenders of the Earth (9730655) 9.25 Why Don't You...? (s) (4461494)
- 9.50 The Q-Zone (s) (5792098) 10.05 Playdays (r) (2858974) 10.30 The New Look (r) (s) (486523)
- 11.00 The Darker Hour. A meditation by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and music from the Langa Adult Choir (29746)
- 12.00 Children of Courage with Esther Tannin and Gavin Campbell (r) (8530727) 12.45 Red and Blue. Cartoon double bill (43562765)
- 12.55 Regional News and weather (1327283)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (83670920) 1.15 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (68554253)
- 1.40 Columbo. Peter Falk stars as the dishevelled detective in this investigation coming into contact with a high-tech killer. Also starring Oscar Werner and Gene Rowlands (9113982)
- 2.50 Film: The Prince and the Pauper (1977). Mark Lester plays two roles in a stylized 16th-century swashbuckler based on Mark Twain's novel. Directed by Richard Fleischer (56085388)
- 4.45 The Prince's Army. In a special documentary to mark the second anniversary of the Prince's Trust Volunteers, the Prince of Wales talks to Simon Mayo. (Ceefax) (7196123)
- 5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (715291)
- 6.00 Star O'Clock News with Chris Lowe. (Ceefax) Weather (922920) 6.15 Regional news and weather (817659)
- 6.20 Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) starring Burt Reynolds and Sally Field. Manic comedy about a maverick driver who takes up the challenge of collecting a truckload of illicit beer from Texas and driving it back to Atlanta, Georgia, within 28 hours. Directed by Hal Needham (8359659)
- 7.50 Comic Relief 1992 — Behind the Nose (Ceefax) (57456)
- 8.00 Bruce's Guest Night. Bruce is joined by Dudley Moore, Juliet Prowse, Ronnie Corbett, Marc Almond, Paul Nicholas and Claire Moore. (Ceefax) (s) (1017)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (17272)
- 9.20 Comic Relief 1992 — Behind the Nose. Lenny Henry, Griff Rhys Jones and Jonathan Ross present a behind-the-scenes look at how last year's Red Nose money was spent. Followed by Who's Funniest? The results of a Radio Times poll for the best comedy of 1991's Red Nose Day



Why is Africa poor? Tony Robinson in Tanzania (9.40pm)

- 9.40 The Comic Relief Snappily Titled and Utterly Spontaneous Stab at Explaining Why So Many People in Africa Are So Damn Poor.
- CHOICE: The centrepiece of Red Nose evening is a documentary from Tanzania hosted by Tony Robinson. With the help of location material, and inserted sketches featuring the likes of Peter Sissons, Richard Wilson and Jim Broadbent, he presents a lay person's guide to why Africa is poor. Those who have sat through sober documentaries on BBC2 or Channel 4 will find nothing new but it is right to return to the arguments and make them accessible to a wider audience. Using a jocular style for a serious purpose, the programme explains the effects of unfair trade, the debt burden, environmental damage and bad government, all compounding the vulnerability of powerless people (319140).
- 10.30 The Last Supper. A history presented by Fry, Ben Elton and Dawn French. (Ceefax)
- 11.20 The Gospels: The Last Supper to the Crucifixion (438920)
- 11.35 Film: The Outfit (1974). Taut thriller starring Robert Duvall as a convict recently released from prison who is bent on avenging his brother's death. Directed by John Flynn (165123). Northern Ireland: One Man's Death 11.45-1.30 Film: Crossroads 1.15am Weather (4674586)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Arts — the Albert Memorial (7847123). Ends at 7.10
- 8.05 Film: Tarzan and the Mermaids (b/w, 1948) starring Johnny Weissmuller in his last appearance as the Dr Dolittle of the jungle. He meets a mermaid and battles with a giant octopus. Directed by Robert Florey (5917253)
- 9.10 Film: The Man Who Came to Dinner (b/w, 1941) starring Bette Davis and Monty Woolley. Corrosive comedy about a media legend who terrorizes a provincial family when he is forced to recuperate in their home. Directed by William Keighley (93439291)
- 1.00 Film: King of Kings (1961). A moving account of the life of Christ, narrated by Orson Welles. Starring Jeffrey Hunter. Directed by Nicholas Ray (98103291)
- 1.35 Holiday Outings. The Ironbridge Museum in Shropshire (r) (21409253)
- 1.40 Brum (21420745) 1.50 The Adventures of Spot. Animated antics of the naughty pup (r) (58727340) 1.55 Sparky's Magic Piano. Animation (1360611)



Arthur and the Green Knight: Greager, Tomlinson (2.45pm)

- 2.45 Gawain. Opera by Harrison Birtwistle set in Arthurian times and based on the medieval epic poem Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Starring Françoise Le Roux, Richard Grange, John Tomlinson and Mark Padmore. Directed by Di Trevis (s) (65119369)
- 6.00 Thunderbirds. Meno Wilson acting from the cast of International Rescue. (Ceefax) (2636380)
- 6.55 Nature: Close Encounters of the European Kind. Julian Pettifer reveals that North Sea cod and haddock are on the verge of extinction and how the EC quotas are affecting the European fisherman who now are having to throw back nearly half their catch in an effort to save the fish (191123)

- 7.25 Stabat Mater. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and Chorus as they perform Rosini's choral work, with Christine Wedderburn (soprano), Ann Murray (mezzo-soprano), David Maxwell Anderson (tenor) and Roderick Earle (bass) (3573949)

- 8.30 Gardeners' World. A visit to Beechgrove in Scotland (4369)

- 9.00 Arena: An Argentinian Story

- CHOICE: A short season of films from the French director Bertrand Tavernier opens with the intimate chamber piece which brought Dirk Bogarde back to the screen after a gap of 13 years. Bogarde plays an English father seeking reconciliation with his half-French daughter (Jane Birkin) he emotionally neglected as a child. His wife and the girl's mother (Odette Laure) is the other main character in a film which revolves on a series of family discussions in which the trio look back over the past, assess their relationships and attempt to explore points of tension. With its emphasis on dialogue and atmosphere, it is a film that is well suited to the television screen while Bogarde's performance, subtle, intelligent and moving, confirms him as one of our finest film actors. Let us hope it is not his farewell (942814)

- 11.45 Film: Pete Kelly's Blues (1955). Jack Webb, Janet Leigh and Lee Marvin star in this tough cult thriller with a 1920s jazz background. Lee Marvin also directs (988833)

- 1.15am Weather (4672128)

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SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
 6.00am The DJ's Show (76148349) 8.40 The Weather Report (76148350) 9.00 The Weather Report (76148351) 9.30 The Weather Report (76148352) 10.00 The Weather Report (76148353) 10.30 The Young Doctors (733691) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (733692) 11.30 Another World (733693) 12.00 Days of Our Lives (733694) 12.30 Days of Our Lives (733695) 1.30 Another World (733696) 2.20 Days of Our Lives (733697) 2.50 The Bold and the Beautiful (733698) 3.15 The Bold and the Beautiful (733699) 3.45 The Bold and the Beautiful (733700) 4.15 The Bold and the Beautiful (733701) 4.45 The Bold and the Beautiful (733702) 5.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (733703) 5.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (733704) 5.55 The Bold and the Beautiful (733705) 6.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (733706) 6.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (733707) 6.50 The Bold and the Beautiful (733708) 7.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (733709) 7.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (733710) 7.55 The Bold and the Beautiful (733711) 8.00 The Bold and the 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